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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-94-126* *30 June 1994*

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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### AMU Council Expresses Solidarity With Libya

*LD2806165094 Rabat MAP in English 1345 GMT 28 Jun 94*

[Text] Algiers, June 28 (MAP)—The 15th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers wound up Monday [27 June] after consideration of several cooperation projects and identification of moves to consolidate further the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) [AMU].

The council voiced solidarity with Libya, which faces an international embargo, and hailed Tripoli's efforts to settle the Lockerbie issue. The council agreed to convene by next October in Algiers an enlarged meeting devoted to priority sectors.

The Maghreban foreign ministers voiced satisfaction over the enforcement of some conventions related to road transports of goods and passengers and recommended assessment of the implementation of these conventions. They called for the consolidation of the Maghreban union and boosting economic complementarity to meet the Maghreban peoples' aspirations .

The Maghreban ministers reviewed the embargo imposed on Iraq, the situation in Yemen, Rwanda, Bosnia, the positive developments in South Africa, the Middle East, the Arab-African and Arab-Islamic cooperation prospects and relations between the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and other European and international groupings.

The 15th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers was preceded by the UMA follow-up committee which prepared agenda for the ministerial council.

Morocco was represented in the Algiers meeting by Moroccan Secretary of State to Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Tayeb Fassi El Fihri.

## Islamic Affairs

### Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 24 Jun

*NC2906123294*

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 24 June issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

**CONTENTS:**

1. Lawyers Escalate Anti-Government Protests
2. Prominent Journalist Urges Better Relations with Iran
3. Document Shows West Scheming To Reduce Muslim Population
4. Writers View Islamists' Ability To Govern
5. Omani Authorities Arrest Islamists
6. Washington Drafts Plans Against Algeria's Islamists
7. Turkish Islamic Party Said Winning More Support

#### LAWYERS ESCALATE ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS

An 800-word report by Khalid Yunus on pages 1 and 7 deals with the development of the crisis between the Lawyers Association [LA] and the government. The report says 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad, the chief of the LA Cairo branch, who has been staging a hunger strike to support demands for the release of the detained lawyers and the holding of an inquiry into the death of Islamist lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani while in police custody, has been taken to the hospital after a serious deterioration in his health. The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights reportedly issued a "press release" calling on the Egyptian Government to meet Muhammad's lawful demands to save his life. The report says that scores of lawyers began a sit-in in the LA headquarters in solidarity with Muhammad, and that some of them joined in the hunger strike.

—A related unattributed 150-word report on pages 1 and 7 says the LA branch in Ismailia decided to hold a general congress Thursday, 30 June, as part of the lawyers' activities against the detention of their colleagues and the government's failure to "bring the officers responsible for the death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani to trial."

—An 80-word boxed announcement extending over two long columns on page 1 and signed by LA Doyen Ahmad al-Khawajah and LA Secretary General Ahmad Sayf al-Islam says that the LA Council decided at a 19 June meeting that: 1. Lawyers shall not attend two prosecution sessions on 28 and 29 June to renew the detention order of the lawyers. 2. Lawyers shall stage a general strike on 28 and 29 June "to protest the continuing aggression against lawyers and the legal profession." The announcement says disciplinary measures will be taken against violators of the two decisions.

#### PROMINENT JOURNALIST URGES BETTER RELATIONS WITH IRAN

A 600-word front page report by Ashraf Khalil cites well-known Egyptian journalist Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal as calling for improving relations with Iran and healing the rift between the two major regional powers. Haykal reportedly told a Cairo seminar on Iranian-Arab relations that the Egyptian leadership is largely to blame for the bad relations between Cairo and Tehran. He said no one has produced a bit of evidence that Iran supports terrorist acts in Egypt. "I believe that direct action in Egypt is against Iran's interests, and I believe that the Islamists in Egypt—and they are Sunnis—are far from being influenced by the [Shiite] Iranian authorities," Haykal is quoted as saying.

#### DOCUMENT SHOWS WEST SCHEMING TO REDUCE MUSLIM POPULATION

An approximately 2,500-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad on page 3 discusses "a serious document" obtained by the paper on U.S. and Western schemes to reduce population growth in the Islamic world and thus

weaken the Islamic nation. The document, headlined "International Campaign to Destroy Islam," reportedly "reveals new aggression by the U.S. AID against the Muslim countries." It recounts the U.S. agency's birth-control efforts and programs in countries like Nigeria, Niger, Egypt, and Jordan. It says the agency depends on local religious leaders, secular women activists, and the private Future Group of the United States to implement these programs. The document says the plans to reduce the population of the Muslim world, which are given appealing names like "birth control" and "time intervals between births," are facing major difficulties thanks to Islamic opposition, which has largely managed to convince Muslims that birth control is a sin. The document, whose source is not given, discusses the strategy of the United States and the NATO alliance to deal with the population growth in the Islamic countries. It reportedly says that "the rising population growth rate in the Islamic world, at a time when the Western countries and the United States are recording low population growth rates, will necessarily lead to a war against the Muslims—a war in which NATO will use its influence, power, and intelligence resources to contain the growing threat of Islam." The document says all indications are that the Islamic countries will grow more powerful in the future and the international balance of power will change in the next 20 years as a result of the growing population rates. Therefore, "the United States and NATO should do their utmost to curb the population growth in the Islamic world and control its natural resources," the document concludes.

## WRITERS VIEW ISLAMISTS' ABILITY TO GOVERN

AL-SHA'B carries on page 9 an approximately 2,000-word article by Egyptian writer Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal and a 1,500-word "comment" on the article, signed with the initials M.A.H., presumably the newspaper's Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn. Haykal's article, which mainly discusses the Islamic experience in Algeria and its repercussions on the Muslim world, first appeared in the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI SHIMBUN "some time ago" according to the introduction. In his article, Haykal criticizes the Algerian Government and Army for obstructing the Islamists' attempt to reach power through democratic elections. He notes that the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria, like the other political Islam movements in the Muslim world, lack specific programs and plans that can help them to effectively solve the problems of the people once they reach power. The Islamic movements, Haykal adds, lack in the leading cadres to implement their political ideas. Haykal also notes traditional U.S and Arab Gulf support for the Islamic movements against secular nationalist forces.

In his commentary, Husayn says that in the absence of real democracy, where the road to government is open to any political force, the opposition can only have general plans and ideas, not specific programs and detailed institutions. He maintains that the Islamic movement, in its general inclinations and broad vision, offers a clearer and more defined program than that offered in the past by the pan-Arab, leftist, and liberal forces when they were in the center of opposition. He notes that all political groups come to power with general principles and inclinations that may be amended and adjusted as practical experience dictates. He says: "It is true that the Islamic creed does not commit Muslim to certain constitutional establishments, an economic theory, or a foreign policy, but it offers terms of reference to all these—that is, general constitutional principles. Islam has general principles governing relations between the ruler and the ruled, and general rules and principles governing economic life." He also notes general principles that define the relations between the Islamic state and the foreign world. Concerning the lack of Islamic leading cadres, Husayn says that even if this is true, it does not mean a Muslim government will fail. The scarcity of leaders, he argues, is a traditional problem that has faced every new movement seeking radical change in society, but there are short-term and long-term solutions. Regarding the role of the United States and the traditional Arab governments in the Islamic revival, Husayn says those parties tried to use the Islamic movements in the past, when the pan-Arab movement was the source of revolutionary anger. "Now however, the revolutionary awakening comes from the Islamic movements themselves, and this is problem number one for U.S. policy." Husayn concludes that "the Islamic awakening is a return to the nation's identity," not a reaction to frustration or a response to foreign support.

## OMANI AUTHORITIES ARREST ISLAMISTS

An "exclusive" unattributed 120-word report on page 7 says that the Omani authorities, in an unprecedented move, have arrested 70 Islamists of Omani, Sudanese, and Jordanian nationalities and closed a number of Islamic libraries in that country. Among the detainees, the report says, is Muhammad Bin-Ahmad al-Ghazali, undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery; his two brothers; a judge; and an Air Force officer. Sudanese and Jordanian university professors were also arrested, according to the report.

## WASHINGTON PREPARES PLANS AGAINST ALGERIA'S ISLAMISTS

An unattributed 150-word report on page 7 claims that the United States "has prepared a new security plan to confront the Islamists in Algeria." The report cites information that the recent meeting between the Algerian foreign minister and U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake dealt with "new American ideas to combat the Islamic phenomenon in Algeria." According to the information, the United States is asking that the U.S. intelligence agencies and the National Security Council be given a major role in security planning for Algeria. The United States reportedly expressed readiness to support the Algerian Government forces, but wanted the Army to get rid of the elements that support religious activity.

### TURKISH ISLAMIC PARTY SAID WINNING MORE SUPPORT

In an approximately 3,500-word report from Istanbul Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn discusses from an Islamic perspective the Turkish developments and challenges, such as the Kurdish problem and the economic crisis. He concludes that "Turkey is at a decisive crossroads. Its secular option and its link with the Western European camp have reached, or almost reached, a dead end." He says the government can no longer tackle the major challenges of territorial unity, economic crisis, and the lost dignity. All this, he contends, is increasingly helping the Islamic Welfare Party, which may win twice as many seats in the 1996 elections as it won in this year's election.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Financial, Other Problems Hinder 'Arafat's Return

*NC2806150394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 28 Jun 94*

[Text] Tunis, 28 Jun (MENA)—The Fatah Central Committee held a meeting last night under the chairmanship of 'Arafat and discussed the shortage of financial and daily-life needs in Gaza and Jericho because the donor countries, who pledged financial aid to the Palestinian National Authority, have not actually transferred these funds.

Informed Palestinian sources said that the fact that this aid has not arrived on time will cause confusion in paying the salaries of the Palestinian police.

These sources added that the Palestinian families, whose return to Gaza and Jericho Israel has been approved, will have to wait many months in Tunis or elsewhere before their return. This is because conditions in the Gaza Strip and Jericho region are not currently adequate to receive thousands of cadres and elements from the PLO, in particular the housing facilities and other such services.

These sources noted that 'Arafat himself is careful not to discuss the date of his departure from Tunis and return to his homeland even with his closest aides.

The sources expressed their belief that there are a number of obstacles that still prevent the setting of a final date for 'Arafat's return. Foremost of these obstacles are the financial difficulties caused by the donor countries and World Bank because of the delay in paying the aid that was approved earlier. The Palestinians have yet to receive this aid.

### Economist Assails Donor Countries' Aid Policy

*TA2906145094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 29 Jun 94 p 4*

[By Salim Tayah]

[Excerpt] Tulkarm, QUDS PRESS—Economist Samir al-Barghuthi has said that the donor countries which have pledged to provide financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority in the autonomous area are pressing to draw up a financial aid policy that "shackles the Palestinian side and makes it totally dependent on foreign aid. He added that the donor countries have asked the Palestinian side to come back to them within a specified timeframe. This means that they do not wish to provide long-term aid to the Palestinian side but rather for a short period only. He noted that there are great fears that the United States is seeking to link the Palestinian need for aid to political considerations.

Al-Barghuthi stressed that Palestinian economic prosperity depends on fulfillment of the pledges and sincerity of the intentions of the donor countries. In this context, he referred to the role being played by the United States, which can be characterized as "being negative" to some extent. Al-Barghuthi said that keeping economic prosperity a hostage to U.S. and Israeli intentions arouses many fears and doubts. He stressed that the flow of Palestinian and Arab investment capital into the Palestinian autonomous areas hinges on the existence of a balanced investment climate, social stability, and the establishment of elected legislative institutions and councils.

Al-Barghuthi expressed the Palestinian side's apprehension at the fact that the donor countries might pay the salaries of the Palestinian Authority's employees in monthly installments. He said that this makes the Authority subject to political blackmail by Western countries. [passage omitted]

### 'Economy Minister' Quray' Interviewed

*PM2806143094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jun 94 p10*

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', "economy minister" in the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho, by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] ['Alam-al-Din] What are the obstacles standing in the way of the Palestinian Development and Reconstruction Agency?

[Quray'] After the signing of the Declaration of Principles, we began to turn to the international community for contributions to the process of rebuilding Palestine and compensating for the years of destruction during the long period of occupation.

In the text and appendixes of the Declaration of Principles there is such a thing as a "Marshall plan" for the occupied territories to rectify the disfiguration and to rebuild the infrastructure which was destroyed.

The Americans played a positive and significant part in this connection. They invited world states to meet at a special conference to discuss aid for the Palestinians. That conference was held last October at President Clinton's invitation. The 44 states which participated all pledged financial aid of about $2.4 billion. I believe that is a good sum and excellent as a first essential step for reconstruction over a period of five years.

Naturally, the donor states of such aid are governed by their own bureaucracy and routines, and the same applies to the receiving states, not to mention some who still have no state on the ground like us.

That is why we in the PLO and its Economic Department moved to draw up a system or plan for development. We submitted it to the World Bank mission and asked it to express an opinion. After some study, the World Bank adopted 95 percent of the plan. It offered some advice without imposing conditions.

The plan was passed on to brother Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] and then submitted to the Executive Committee which made a decision, issued by Abu-'Ammar in December 1993, providing for the formation of the Economic Council.

A meeting was held in Paris by representatives of the donor states under Norway's chairmanship. I represented the Palestinian side at the meeting. At that meeting we submitted an emergency plan for the first year with expenditures reaching about $620 million including $361 million for investment projects for building the infrastructure and about $252 million for current expenses.

['Alam-al-Din] When will the first year start?

[Quray'] It was supposed to start last January. We expected the flow of aid to begin that month but, most regrettably and for many reasons, some of them linked to the donor states themselves, no aid arrived.

['Alam-al-Din] What are the reasons?

[Quray'] Bureaucracy, routine, and the donor states' interest in exporting machinery, experts, and blueprints to the project locations, but that was not possible as far as we were concerned because the Palestinian case is a very special and very different case and cannot afford any postponement or waiting.

Hence the problem—the problem of the source from which the Palestinian civil administration is supposed to cover its expenses.

The Advisory Committee held another meeting in January also in Paris. The Palestinians were represented by Dr. Nabil Qassis. As a result of the discussions, the donor states pledged to cover $1 million of the current expenses.

Then we began to talk about the Economic Council, its structure, powers, and tasks.

We made a number of decisions. I admit that we were very slow in filling the vacuum in that sole new institution created by the Palestinian Authority and in activating that institution which will receive and manage the aid and supervise the expenditures.

So, the bureaucracy of the donor states, the routine and tedious measures of the World Bank, and our hesitation and slow movement, were all causes which delayed the implementation of the projects that have been drawn up.

I believe and expect that a large sum was spent on the expenses of the World Bank delegations in their round trips, discussions, studies, and meetings, with no results reaching the occupied territory to this day.

That situation continued until the Cairo agreement was reached. The problem we faced then was this: There is going to be a Palestinian authority which will need funds and have expenses. Was it reasonable that Abu-'Ammar should at the end of every month wait for the arrival of the necessary funds to pay the salaries of the police and employees, or should there be a budget and an open account or a fund to cover the expenses of government and administration affairs, leaving him assured of the minimum required funds?

['Alam-al-Din] And the solution?

[Quray'] I am not happy and I do not feel reassured about what is happening. The agreement with the donor states had provided for $620 million which dropped to $580 million then to $90 million and then to $40 million. That makes me say that we have to reconsider our relations and agreements with the World Bank and the donor states and reexamine the nature of our own internal and intrinsic measures in order to be able to reactivate this matter.

['Alam-al-Din] Why have the donor states taken the position they have on the aid issue?

[Quray'] The reason, as I said before, may be the routine which governs their measures. I do not claim to be very experienced in these matters but I have asked some Arab brothers about the subject and they assured me that routine and bureaucracy are among the main causes of delay, but in reality the answer to that is that our situation is exceptional and cannot afford long complex routine.

['Alam-al-Din] Is there any coordination with Jordan to determine your future role at the level of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, and is there a possibility of you joining it in the future?

[Quray'] I support and hail the Jordanian step, and I believe that it is not in Jordan's interest to freeze its own issues until the issues of others are resolved.

Actually, Jordan took such a step in the past. It is a negotiating state. Meetings are being held and meetings have been held in Washington between the Jordanians, the Israelis, and the Americans. That led to the recent economic cooperation agreement. The Jordanian brothers were with us at the Paris negotiations and we consulted them on all issues that were under discussion. So, there is a coordination mechanism between us and them.

The question is: Is that mechanism equal to the magnitude of our relations and our expectations?

My answer is that it is not. When we talk about special relations between us and Jordan, we do not do so as just a matter of raising slogans. We do mean special, real, and effective relations.

Why? Because the nature of the relations which have been established and which have developed and grown is

such that it is impossible to break or overlook. That necessitates work to organize these relations and define their frameworks. Anyone who thinks he can impede, freeze, or end them is grossly mistaken. The religious, national, historical, geographical, and social links are strong, firm, and solid on the ground between the two peoples.

['Alam-al-Din] What is preventing that? Is it an erroneous political line?

[Quray'] I do not think so. The links are there, they do exist, but the reason may be the preoccupations of the current phase. There is no alternative to understanding, coordination, cooperation, and consultation away from any doubt or fear. They do not want to be harmed and we do not want to be harmed.

['Alam-al-Din] How do you view the Palestinian economy? Do you want an independent economy or a coordinated economy with the neighboring states?

[Quray'] To this day, there is no such thing as Palestinian economy. There are economic issues and there are some economic projects on Palestinian territory which should now be assessed, reorganized, and drafted into an economic framework with specifications and executive programs. The Palestinian economy is divided and swallowed up by the Israeli economy. Our main concern is to extricate it from the clutches of the Israeli economy. The Palestinian economy cannot be strong and real unless it has a comprehensive Arab depth. Without that, it would remain disfigured. That is what we are gradually working for.

['Alam-al-Din] So you do not see a depth for the Palestinian economy other than the Arab depth, not the Israeli?

[Quray'] That is our conviction, yesterday, today, tomorrow, always. The Arab depth is our depth, our field, and our stake.

['Alam-al-Din] What are your expectations regarding investment in the Palestinian economy?

[Quray'] I hope I am not mistaken when I say that I pin more hope on the initiative and contributions of the Palestinian private sector at home and abroad than on foreign aid. Thank God, the Palestinians abroad are successful, honest, inventive, and enjoy a good reputation. Our task is to provide the right atmosphere for them to contribute to the building process.

It was in that light that the initiative for the formation of the "Palestine Company for Development and Investment" was launched, with a capital of $200 million, by a group of Palestinian businessmen. It is a large sum and, in my view, worth more than the $2.4 billion we have been promised. That is because, in terms of effectiveness and growth, the capital of that company is greater than the financial aid.

We receive dozens of applications and offers every day from Palestinian companies and financiers for the formation of banks, tourist companies, and agricultural and industrial firms. They want to contribute to the building of the Palestinian economy. That makes me more hopeful about the future.

Our concept actually is not one of a closed Palestinian economy. We are planning for a free and open economy with a very important role for the private sector. As regards the role of the public sector, it is known and it is limited. Its aim, or one of its aims, is to build the infrastructure and implement the services projects and development projects.

I pin great hopes on the role of the Palestinian private sector in all fields and wherever it wishes to go.

['Alam-al-Din] What about Arab capital?

[Quray'] We have received several investment offers from the noble Arab brothers who wish to contribute with us to the reconstruction of Palestine. Palestine was, is, and will continue to be the cause of all the Arabs, not just the cause of its own people.

['Alam-al-Din] There are complaints that non-Palestinians are given preference over Palestinians in the consideration and implementation of investment offers. What is your comment on that?

[Quray'] I know nothing about the existence of any such thing. There is no discrimination and preference of one group over another. If there is any room for discrimination, it would be in favor of the Palestinians of course.

### Editorial Urges Israel To End 'Economic Pressure'

*TA2906164594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 29 Jun 94 p 13*

[Editorial: "Why This Economic Pressure?"]

[Text] During the short period following the implementation of the interim agreement in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, it has become clear that Israel is holding some keys that allow it—when its interests deem—to exert certain pressure over those two areas. It has also become clear that it does not hesitate to resort to this means of pressure, as it has indeed used it more than once during this period.

For example, closing Jericho to tourists over the past six weeks is one of the means of pressure. The ban imposed on all tourist buses into the town was lifted only yesterday after several hotels, restaurants, and institutions were about to close down, bearing in mind that tourism is one of the main sources of income in Jericho.

The residents there have asked: Why did the Israeli authorities take this step at this particular time after the settlement process had begun moving toward implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreements? And what is the underlying reason for the repetition of baseless pretexts about the security situation in the town despite the fact that the situation there is calm and normal?

As for the Gaza Strip, the unemployment problem is being used by Israel as pressure or a bargaining chip, since permits are given only to a limited number of

Palestinian workers to get to work places inside the Green Line. This, at a time when during their occupation of the Strip, the Israeli authorities did not set up local economic infrastructures and projects that can absorb hundreds of thousands of workers, but left them almost completely dependent on labor markets inside Israel. Moreover, those authorities forget or want to forget the fact that easing the economic pressure imposed on Palestinian workers, especially in the Gaza Strip, is in the interest of peace.

Israel must stop using economic pressure and, instead, should provide a relaxed atmosphere for the Palestinian people's sons, because this is the only way to convince them of its seriousness and credibility toward peace. This requires one to take numerous positive steps, foremost of which is restoring the situation to what it was before the tourism ban was imposed on Jericho on one hand, and before the Gaza Strip was closed to the workers who go to work in Israel, on the other hand.

### Al-Husayni Affirms Importance of Jerusalem

*NC3006114494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Excerpt] East Jerusalem, 30 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni has described the Gaza-Jericho agreement as an interim measure and part of the peace process. He said his presence in Jerusalem is linked to this process, which envisages negotiations over the future status of the city.

In a statement to MENA today, al-Husayni said negotiations on the future status of Jerusalem must start as soon as possible and must not last more than two years. He added that Jerusalem is the social, economic, political, and religious capital of the Palestinians. Jerusalem is not just a demand the Palestinians put on the negotiating table and which we may or may not get, but is a symbol of the Palestinian presence there. It is one of the pillars and a comprehensive peace cannot be achieved unless a solution is reached that will guarantee for the inhabitants of Jerusalem their existence and for the city its Arab, Islamic, and international character.

He added: We tell the Israelis that there can be no solution without Jerusalem. At the same time, we do not want to see the city divided. It is now divided. Part of it is under occupation and the other part sanctions this occupation. He said: We are seeking a comprehensive solution that will keep Jerusalem open, with free movement and without borders; but at the same time, it will contain two capitals. [passage omitted]

### Executive Member al-Najjab Arrives in Jericho

*TA2806172894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jun 94*

[Text] Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the People's Party, arrived today in Jericho via the Allenby Bridge accompanied by Dr. Walid Mustafa, member of the PLO Central Council, after Israel agreed to their return. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that People's Party General Secretary Bashir al-Barghuthi welcomed the two in Jericho. It is worth noting that the People's Party has suspended its participation in the peace process because of its reservations regarding the Declaration of Principles and the decisionmaking process in the PLO.

### Interviewed on Return to Jericho

*JN2806190694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Jun 94*

[Telephone interview with Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member, "who returned to Jericho today after 20 years of exile," by Sa'id Mu'addi in Jericho on 28 June; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member, God be praised for your safe return. You are welcome to Jericho.

[Al-Najjab] Thank you, Sa'id.

[Mu'addi] Twenty years after deportation, you have now returned to the Gaza and Jericho autonomous areas although you are not member of the Palestinian administration. What is your comment?

[Al-Najjab] I have returned to the homeland. Our stand on the Cairo agreement is well-known. Therefore, we have not participated in the government. However, I believe that our work to implement Resolution 242 in all its provisions and ensure the Israeli withdrawal from our occupied territory can also be done from the autonomous areas. This, of course, is not confined to areas from which the Israeli Army has withdrawn so far. I mean quote, withdrawn, unquote, of course.

We are proud of the role that we as a party have played within the PLO to reach the declaration on the well-known Palestinian peace initiative in 1988 when the PLO's official policy became the policy of working to reach a political settlement based on implementing Resolution 242.

[Mu'addi] Then will you join the factions that are opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian agreement?

[Al-Najjab] We will not join factions opposed to negotiations. We are constructive opposition. We support negotiations and a political settlement. Our opposition differs from the other factions that refused the participation in Madrid conference and that rejected the Oslo agreement. But we also differ with the Palestinian factions that signed the Cairo agreement. Our differences and our rejection of the Cairo agreement basically stems from our serious work to reach a firm political settlement. I do not believe that it is possible to reach such a settlement by ignoring the Palestinian people's rights and circumventing the resolutions of international legitimacy.

[Mu'addi] What will be the basis of your political activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to promote the aims of the political trend you represent?

[Al-Najjab] We consider that the aim of realizing Palestinian national independence through a political settlement continues to be our basic aim. Our stand toward the Palestinian authority is contingent on the stand and work of this authority to realize this objective; namely, independence. We support the authority in all its steps that serve this objective. We, along with all the Palestinian national forces, are working to solve problems that the agreement has not succeeded in solving. Foremost of these problems now is the issue of the detainees and political prisoners. It has transpired that the agreement's provisions on this issue have failed to solve it. All the political detainees and prisoners must be released if the peace process is to gain credibility among the Palestinian people.

[Mu'addi] Thank you, Mr. Sulayman al-Najjab, and God be praised for your safe return.

[Al-Najjab] Thank you, and before I end this interview I would like to reiterate that the continuation of the siege on Jerusalem and attempts at changing the reality there and the attempt to expand the settlements will not serve the peace process. They do not conform to peace at all. Postponing these two issues to the final phase of the negotiations does not mean giving the Israeli side a free hand to impose new realities that will affect the final result of the negotiations.

[Mu'addi] Thank you very much.

[Al-Najjab] Thank you, Sa'id, thank you.

## Al-Najjab Comments on PLO's Continuing Role

*PM2906112894 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p4*

[Interview with Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member and leader of the Palestinian People's Party, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis; date not given—first paragraph is al-Barqawi introduction]

[Text] We first asked about what Palestinian President Yasir Arafat was quoted as saying several days ago, that some opposition factions would soon take stands in support of the agreement [with Israel] and that some of these factions had made contacts with the aim of participation in the National Authority Council. Was the People's Party one of these factions?

[Al-Najjab] We are not one of them. We did not accept the Cairo agreement which carefully defines the authority's marginal powers as evident in all the agreement's articles and appendixes. We still believe that the Palestinian people's main task is to end the occupation, achieve national independence, and find a solution to the refugee problem in accordance with the UN resolutions. We do not see anything in any of the Cairo agreement articles that will take us closer to that objective. That is why we will continue to struggle, outside the authority, for liberation, but we will support the authority if it contributes to the struggle against the occupation.

[Al-Barqawi] But how can you support the authority without being part of it?

[Al-Najjab] There are some tangible issues such as the Arabism of Jerusalem, resisting settlements, the detainees, and the Israeli repressive measures. If the authority contributes to the defense of these causes, it would find us with it in the same trench.

[Al-Barqawi] So there are points of agreement.

[Al-Najjab] We want to remain in touch with the authority, with the common objective of resisting occupation, preventing intensification of national division, and preventing inter-Palestinian fighting, and at the same time secure the opposition's right to struggle against the agreement by political and democratic means.

[Al-Barqawi] Is there a danger of inter-Palestinian fighting on the horizon?

[Al-Najjab] We are satisfied with the statements issued by all parties prohibiting infighting, but it is not just a matter of intentions. There are gaps in the agreement itself. For instance, under the agreement, the authority is committed to hand over everyone considered by Israel to be a threat to its security. If the Palestinian police implemented that provision, then there would be a threat of collision. Israel also insists that arms should only be in the possession of the police, hence the call for arms to be collected from the people. Some of these arms, used against the honor, property, and lives of the public, should be taken away because that would fulfill a national need. However, some arms could be used against the occupation so long as it is there. Administrative decisions do not solve that problem. It is, above all, a political issue and the dispute over it could lead to friction. That is why our party has suggested to both the authority and the opposition the idea of forming an authoritative national committee, with representatives from both sides, that would have the task of dealing with this sensitive issue and making decisions in the interest of national unity provided it is equally binding on all parties.

[Al-Barqawi] Has that proposal produced any results?

[Al-Najjab] Everyone has expressed appreciation and saw it as a serious proposal, and we are waiting for the replies.

[Al-Barqawi] Regarding the agreement which you oppose, do you not see a possibility of improving its terms?

[Al-Najjab] That would have been possible before the agreement was signed, and that is what we called for during the negotiations. The articles of the agreement that have been made public fully restrict the authority. We are watching its implementation, and that includes the approach to the various disputed issues such as the detainees issue. The [released] detainees' residence has been confined to Jericho until the expiry of their prison term. That is stipulated in the agreement. The same kind

of thing applies to the authority's offices in Arab Jerusalem and the laws to be enforced in the transitional period. The agreement commits the authority to maintaining all the laws and military orders which were in force when the agreement was signed. There is also another provision which stipulates that the authority can only have offices in Gaza and Jericho. Israel is trying to use that provision as a cover for its known policy of clearing Palestinian national institutions out of Jerusalem.

The authority should take a firm position on all these issues, the same position taken by the patriotic forces including the People's Party, upholding struggle for the release of all the detainees, return of the deportees, deletion of anything preventing that from the provisions of the agreement itself, and defense of the national institutions in Jerusalem.

[Al-Barqawi] You are in Tunis for the closure of the office of the Social Affairs Department which you head. How is that to be interpreted?

[Al-Najjab] There is some confusion which should be cleared up, and awareness should be heightened. The PLO is one thing and the authority quite another. The PLO is necessary because it still has not completed its national program specified in the peace initiative approved by the [Palestine] National Council in 1988. The PLO is still the Palestinian people's moral home and the symbol of their unity and common cause. The PLO has made major achievements including the vast world recognition of the Palestinian state, and it is the only body that can protect these gains. The authority, according to the agreement, is not allowed to have diplomatic relations with anyone, and its responsibilities are kept within the confines of the agreement and its implementation. It is not permitted to raise issues that have been postponed until the final phase, such as Jerusalem, the refugees, the borders, and the settlements. Therefore, the PLO should alone continue to mobilize and concentrate on these issues and urge the United Nations, the Security Council, and the international community [to tackle them]. It should also insist on the resolutions pertaining to these issues and should resist Israeli practices aimed at perpetuating the status quo. The PLO should continue to seek to dispel the widespread delusion that the Palestinian question has been resolved just as the South African question has been resolved. True, the authority does, for instance, have a social security department in the occupied territory with specific powers, but the Palestinian people in the diaspora still have social issues which the PLO and its departments should continue to shoulder the responsibilities for, and the same applies to most departments. What is important now is that the PLO should create new departments for such issues as Jerusalem and settlement, and should keep the Returnees Affairs Department and the Political Department.

We have submitted these ideas to the leadership and we hope that it will study them and respond in a way that would serve continuation of the national struggle.

[Al-Barqawi] The supporters of the agreement consider what has been accomplished as just an interim step to be followed by other steps such as legislative elections in the future. What is your position on such elections?

[Al-Najjab] Yes, it is a step, but in what direction? It should be in the direction of ending the occupation, and the transition should be from a reality of occupation to a reality that would rid us of that occupation. We do not see anything in the agreement that would help that. The agreement adopted the Israeli concept of the transitional period and its function. That, at best, would only lead to the implementation of the Israeli Labor Party's program based on withdrawal from the densely populated areas, which are small areas not appropriate for the Palestinians to exercise their right of self-determination in. As regards elections, the danger is that according to the agreement, they should merely be elections for the present authority's council with some "legislative and executive powers." If that is the case, it would be difficult to participate. The battle should be started from now for a separate legislative council that would form and supervise the work of an executive council.

[Al-Barqawi] If the Palestine Central Council was summoned to a meeting, would you participate in its work?

[Al-Najjab] We are surprised that the Central Council has not been summoned to a meeting to consider the agreement. The question we ask now is: What would be the Central Council's agenda if it indeed was called to a meeting?

## Al-Khatib Criticizes Cairo Accord Implementation

*TA2806155094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Jun 94 p 5*

[By Rashid Hilal]

[Text] Ramallah—Ghassan al-Khatib, former member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation and a leading People's Party personality, has said that the Cairo accord has shown many differences and problems in each step of its implementation. Al-Khatib attributed this to the accord's nature, which is characterized in placing numerous restrictions on the work of the Palestinian authority.

He explained that the most prominent example of that is implementation of the clause relating to the prisoners whose problem has now blown up in the face of everyone. This has created a serious test for the new arrangements and for the accord itself.

Al-Khatib referred to the danger of the continued separation of the Gaza Strip from the West Bank. He said that this separation, which stems from the accord's division, will create contrasting realities and harm the unity of the land and people if it were to continue.

Al-Khatib criticized the Palestinian performance in implementing the accord. He said that this performance actually adds other restrictions to the accord. He noted that the performance is still marked by chaos and lack of planning, which in practice has affected the speed in

decisionmaking and the ability of the Palestinian Authority council to start its work. Al-Khatib said that the meeting held yesterday by the national authority lacked a quorum because less than half the members were present.

### Israel Allows Fatah Leaders in Self-Rule Area

*JN3006095594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Jun 94 pp 1, 28*

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpt] Israeli authorities have approved the return of all Fatah Central Committee members to the self-rule area. AL-DUSTUR has learned that 15 Central Committee members will accompany President Yasir 'Arafat when he returns to the Gaza Strip.

Informed sources have told AL-DUSTUR that the Israeli authorities have excluded Major General Muhammad Jihad from those who were allowed to return. Maj. Gen. Muhammad Jihad leads the hardliners within Fatah who oppose negotiations with Israel and any agreements that result from them.

The informed military sources said this hardline trend comprises many military people. It works within Fatah against the negotiations and is active at Fatah Central Committee and Revolutionary Council meetings in support of a reinvigorated intifadah. [passage omitted]

### Israel Releases 389 Prisoners From Qezi'ot

*TA2906154094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Israel released 389 Palestinian prisoners from the Qezi'ot jail today. Buses took them via Nahal 'Oz to the Gaza Strip. Most of the freed prisoners are members of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad groups which oppose the peace process. Hundreds of Palestinians welcomed them in Gaza with a large procession.

The Israeli Army says about 4,000 Palestinian prisoners have been released since the Cairo agreement with the PLO signed on the 4th of May. Under the agreement Israel said it would free some 5,000 prisoners.

The Palestinian police in Jericho said it would refuse to let in the 200 prisoners due to be taken there today. The prisoners signed statements that they would remain in the self-rule areas and not oppose the Israel-PLO peace accord with violence.

### Hamas Political Bureau Member on Elections

*PM2806112594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p5*

[Unattributed report on interview with Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, member of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, member of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), has denied the existence in Hamas of a trend that supports the Oslo agreement or participation in the elections "at the present time." He affirmed that the Movement "is immune to division" and that its detained cadres did not sign the document pledging not to resort to violence except after the deletion of the part on support for the Oslo agreement.

He said that the truce with Israel has been there since the birth of Israel and that "it did not mean recognition, just postponement of the conflict."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, Abu-Marzuq said that all the Hamas detainees had refused to sign the document, "which was rejected by Hamas because it included support (for the Oslo agreement) and nonopposition to the recent agreements between the PLO and Israel." He said that "when that provision was deleted and the old version, which the detainees used to sign, was revived, the central command in the prisons ordered the Movement's detainees to sign, with the exception of that command itself."

In his interview, which was held in Damascus, the Hamas Political Bureau member reaffirmed Hamas' position on the autonomy authority, "which has not changed. We oppose it (the agreement) politically and at the popular level and we seek to mobilize the people against it in order to revoke it and preserve the Palestinian people's rights to their territory, full and undiminished." He said that the Israeli forces did not withdraw from Gaza and Jericho. We did not feel their withdrawal. They were redeployed. That is why our firm policy is to resist and confront the occupation." [quotation mark as published]

Abu-Marzuq said that the expected elections in Gaza and Jericho "are bound by ceilings imposed by the Oslo and Cairo agreements. They will not be free elections and will be a violation of the Palestinian people's right to say what kind of leadership they want and what political course relects their views." He asked: "What is the meaning of elections while there is Israeli occupation and sovereignty on the ground? The elections should be rejected and there should be no participation in them. The arena is not restricted to (President) Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah. We challenge them to first hold a Palestinian referendum on the agreement itself to find out what the people think first." He said that Fatah would be risking its history and future when it comes inside [the territories] and participates in the elections.

Asked about the existence of a trend in Hamas that supported participation in the elections, he replied: "The Movement's general trend and unanimous view is refusal to participate at this stage. We are not required to politicize our cadres. We want to prepare them for resistance against the occupation and for the preservation of the Palestinian people's rights."

Abu-Marzuq, who visited Damascus recently and attended the meeting of the Central Command of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF], said that "the truce (with Israel) has been in existence since the emergence of the enemy state. The lines between the Arab states and

the enemy state are armistice lines but a truce does not mean recognition, just a postponement of the conflict."

He stressed that Hamas is immune to division. He said: "We are a Palestinian faction, but to apply factional divisions to us is out of the question. Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] tried the various skills he used on others but failed with us. I do not believe that his movement is as immune to division as Hamas." He added that he has been hearing about a split "for years, but it never occurred."

He denied that it is coming under pressure from any party. He asked: "Where are the parties which back us and support the agreement? What form of aid do they give us? What pressures would they put on the Movement if it continued to oppose the agreement?" He emphasized that the Hamas leadership makes the political decisions "and it knows that its decisions stem from its own institutions, and nobody has the means to put pressure on us." He affirmed that no one in Hamas supported the Gaza-Jericho agreement "whether inside or outside [the territories]."

On his meeting with [Syrian] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' two days ago, Abu-Marzuq said that the two meetings were held "in the course of the Movement's political moves to hold consultations, explain its positions, and discuss a better future for our region." He added that the two meetings "strengthened steadfastness against the designs aimed at splitting the positions which reflect the nation's hopes and aspirations."

## Algeria

### Bombs Explode at Protest for Boudiaf Assassination

#### 15 Reported Injured in Blast

*NC2906123394 Paris AFP in English 1221 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Algiers, 29 Jun (AFP)—Some 15 demonstrators were injured here Wednesday [29 June] when bombs exploded during a protest marking the second anniversary of the assassination of president Mohamed Boudiaf, an AFP correspondent reported.

The bombs went off as some 15,000 people were marching to demand a proper inquiry into the assassination of the president in June 1992.

#### TV Shows Explosion During March

*LD2906125594 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1213 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] A short while ago, our mobile team in charge of filming the march [in Algiers] returned to our studio and brought back a recording of an explosion that took place near Mustapha Pasha hospital, bringing great confusion into the march. [Video shows people marching and chanting slogans; suddenly a loud noise can be heard at the other end of the street, with dust and debris flying everywhere; the marchers begin running in various directions; a number of people are lying in the street wounded, being comforted by other marchers or being led to ambulances; afterwards, people are seen continuing the march and chanting slogans]

#### Demonstration Resumes Despite Injuries

*LD2906130594 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Excerpt] Some 15,000 people gathered in Algiers earlier today, heeding the call of Said Saadi's Movement for the Republic. About 45 minutes ago, there was a bomb attack as the march was progressing. Tahar Mejdouk, you are our correspondent in Algiers. I think that you were on the scene when the bomb attack took place:

[Mejdouk] Yes, absolutely. Around 1220, that is to say, one hour earlier than Paris [time], two seemingly handmade bombs exploded among a group of demonstrators, a few minutes after Said Saadi's passage, behind the Mustapha Hospital in Algiers.

Apparently, some 15 people have been injured. Two of them may have been seriously injured. The demonstrators panicked for a moment but people quickly resumed their march and shouted even louder. The slogans were more virulent against the authorities, since all were saying: Pouvoir, assassin [authorities, assassin]. The demonstration is continuing as I speak. Some 15,000 have gathered on Addis Ababa Square and continue to shout slogans against Islamic fundamentalists and the authorities. [passage omitted]

#### Bomb Said To Be Targeted at Sadi

*LD2906160794 Brussels La Une Radio Network in French 1500 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Early this afternoon around 15,000 people were demonstrating in Algiers, the Algerian capital, calling for the truth, they said, about the assassination of Algerian President Boudiaf, killed in June 1992. The organizer of the demonstration was Dr. Sadi, chairman of an umbrella group which is part of the democratic movement and opposes the Islamists.

Two home-made bombs exploded in the middle of the procession, very close to several television crews, including a Belgian radio and television team. Around 20 people were injured, one of them seriously. Our colleagues from the Liege studio are unhurt, but several members of the France-2 crew were slightly injured. Clearly, the bomb was targeted at the organizer, Dr. Sadi, who was not injured.

#### Sadi Comments on Bombing

*LD2906211294 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Excerpts] Our guest in this second part of Afrique Soir is Said Sadi, chairman of the Movement for the Republic. This morning he was taking part in the demonstration in Algiers organized by his party. As earlier reported, an attack took place during this march and around 60 people were injured. Said Sadi himself was unhurt. Jerome Bastion asked him if he was the specific target of this attack:

[Sadi] I was the target, because most of the bombs which exploded and the shots which were fired were about 20 meters from the place where I was. I believe that the fact that some of the marchers were 600 or 700 meters ahead of me upset the calculations of the perpetrators of this attack somewhat, as they probably expected me to be right at the head of the march.

[Bastion] Did you have any fears for your personal safety?

[Sadi] One cannot fight for democracy for 30 years in a country like Algeria and be a determined opponent of the regime in power and everything it has produced—in other words, fundamentalism—and not consider oneself to be a public figure under threat. [passage omitted]

[Bastion] What can bring about civil peace today?

[Sadi] First of all, presenting Algerians with a clear picture of how Algeria's future might be, and for people to shoulder their responsibilities with conviction and determination to protect the laws of the republic. At the moment, we have the kind of system which has produced fundamentalism and which is quite willing to accept it as long as its vested interests are preserved, and it goes without saying that, now that it is no longer possible to satisfy everyone, the appetites of the clans are sharpening and they are clashing among themselves, even at the level of the parties which make up the regime.

I believe that the only way out is to say what we want, to say clearly that there is no possible plan for Algeria other than democracy, and that any other theocratic illusion would produce nothing other than incredible chaos: The better scenario would be the Afghan version, and the worse would be a Somali-type version.

[Bastion] According to what you are saying, would the new transitional team working with President Zeroual be unable to restore calm and real democracy to the country?

[Sadi] No, I can tell you this very clearly.

[Bastion] This morning the Islamic Salvation Front's deputy leader promised to solve the crisis within two months if he was freed—do you believe in fact that the Islamist leaders are the only ones capable of halting the violence?

[Sadi] I do not believe they are the only ones capable of halting the violence, all the more so since violence for them is a strategy for taking power, and it is almost a tragicomic thing to hear one of those responsible for the current crisis saying: I am the only one capable of stopping it.

[Bastion] What use is the opposition in Algeria today? It is very divided, and it is not participating in the transitional bodies.

[Sadi] Attempting to move forward on the basis of the values on which a republican state should be founded, with at least a minimum level of equity with regard to the citizens. Having said this, we have to achieve the rallying together of the democratic forces, otherwise we are engaged in a kind of self-destructive fragmentation which will not get anybody anywhere.

### Further on Sadi Comments

*LD2906194594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] The two explosions aroused the condemnation of the leadership of the Movement for the Republic. The Movement said in a statement that this crime is considered a dangerous precedent aimed at silencing forever public free expression and republican democratic opinion.

The leader of the Movement for the Republic, which called for the organization of the march, today held a press conference, which colleague Houcine Bourada attended on behalf on the radio.

Bourada said Sadi pointed out that the aim behind this operation was to hit the democrats. About those who could have organized the operation, Sadi pointed out that that would require more time to reveal, and described what happened as dangerous and very important. It is necessary to take a long pause with the aim of analyzing it. He renewed his private stance that there is no alternative to democracy in Algeria.

Concerning the march that was organized today and the nature of the two explosions that took place, Said Sadi said: Firstly I want to greet all the citizens for the courage they have shown as they carried on with the march to the end despite the crime committed against them. A country that produces such citizens cannot be frightened by people who throw bombs at marches.

Secondly, I would like to say that people see there are links between what happened today and what happened in Annaba in June 1992. There are links manifested in the use of fire. However, we should allow some time before we judge and say who is responsible for this crime, where the crime originated, and why it was carried out.

### Sadi Sees Incident as 'Watershed'

*LD2906182594 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Algeria is still in the cycle of violence. This afternoon, two grenades were thrown at a crowd of 15,000 people who were demonstrating in Algiers to demand the truth on the death of President Boudiaf who was murdered two years ago. About 50 people were injured, including 15 seriously. The person who carried out the attack managed to escape and the crowd continued its demonstration. The demonstration was organized by the democrat Said Sadi, whom Luc Lemonnier has interviewed by phone:

[Begin recording] [Sadi] I believe I was the target. I was going to be at the front of the march but the crowd was such that some people were 500-600 meters ahead of us and this somehow spoiled the orginal plan. What I would like to say purely at the technical level, without however drawing more conclusions, is that this reminds us particularly of the attack that took Boudiaf's life; explosive devices were first used to create a diversion then gunshots were fired immediately afterwards.

I also note that the Algerian TV, which ignored us during the whole month it took us to prepare this march, was here for a live coverage of the event.

[Lemonnier] Do you draw any conclusions?

[Sadi] Of course one draws conclusions! This is the first time since the independence of Algeria that a demonstration has been attacked in such a way. Whoever the perpetrator of the attack is—one can speculate as much as one likes—it is certain that this is a watershed in Algeria. People should appreciate the situation and draw their own conclusions. I shall say no more for the moment but the situation is very serious. [end recording]

### Zeroual Condemns 'Despicable' Act

*LD2906174594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Following an incident that occurred this morning during a march in 1 May Square, the office of the head of state released the following statement:

Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, received with indignation the news of the despicable operation carried out this morning in 1 May Square in the capital against

citizens who were taking part in a peaceful march for which the authorities had given permission.

The head of state, the statement adds, strongly condemns this terrorist act which targeted a gathering of Algerians and which was intended as a collective murder. With this act, which is to be added to other acts that have cost the lives of innocent citizens and led to the destruction of the nation's property, the authors and executors of this criminal policy have themselves proved that their target is the Algerian people as a whole and that their only objective is to try and destroy Algeria.

The state, the statement goes on to say, assumes its responsibilities in the face of this phenomenon and will continue fully to assume its responsibilities against those criminals until order is totally restored throughout the national territory. The statement adds: Such incidents also require that everyone in the homeland opposes this terrorism and this violence, which are the real enemies of democracy and the enemies of the Algerian people. On this sad occasion, the head of state wishes all the victims of this operation a quick recovery and reasserts his solidarity with them.

### Update on Explosion Casualties

*LD3006080094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Immediately after the explosion, the interior and health minister visited Mustapha Pacha University Hospital where they acquainted themselves about the situation of the wounded there.

For your information, of the 64 citizens who were wounded, 50 have received first aid treatment, left the hospital and returned to their homes, while 14 others stayed for minor treatment and will be able to join their kinsfolk either this evening or tomorrow. Two citizens remained under treatment. [numbers as heard]

### Dembri on Elections, U.S. Relations, Economic Reform

*LD3006103294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Text] In an interview with the Egyptian weekly AKHIR SA'AH, Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri said that elections could be held in Algeria within three years. He added that Algeria's problems, which developed as a result of the transition from a single party to a multiparty system, are problems that affect other countries in the world, be they in the north or the south. Talking about Algerian-U.S. relations, Dembri stated: We have a political dialogue with Washington on the current politics in Algeria. He added that what Algeria is saying is clear and that it includes the objectives of the transitional period.

Dembri further said that the political dialogue is open to all of Algeria's sincere children whose contribution is needed to build democracy and a multiparty system. Regarding relations between Algeria and the IMF, Dembri said: We have a courageous program of economic reform in Algeria and we have a real potential which will enable us to overcome all the difficulties. He added that there is an important convergence of views between Algeria and the IMF. As regards the debt issue, the head of Algerian diplomacy stated that this file has been passed on to the Club of Paris, and the latter has very good impressions of the Algerian economy and its capacity to overcome the difficulties.

## Egypt

### Sha'th Meets Musa, Says 'Arafat Not To Visit Jerusalem

*NC2906140494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1327 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA)—Today Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received Dr. Nabil Sha'th, official responsible for planning in the Palestinian National Authority and head of the Palestinian side in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

After the meeting Dr. Sha'th stated that he explained the latest positive developments in Gaza and Jericho to 'Amr Musa. He also informed him of the Palestinian desire to hold a large part of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Egypt.

Sha'th said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo tomorrow, Thursday 30 June, to meet with President Husni Mubarak. He added that 'Arafat will travel the day after tomorrow, Friday [1 July], to Gaza through the Rafah border point.

He noted that a large Palestinian delegation of around 100 people will accompany President 'Arafat to Gaza where he will stay for three or four days for a visit. He will then travel through Egypt to Paris to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on 6 and 7 July.

Sha'th clarified that during this visit, President 'Arafat will not have the chance to travel to Jerusalem in view of the special arrangements needed for such a visit.

### Musa Says 'Arafat To Arrive in Cairo 1 Jul

*NC3006080594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo tomorrow, Friday [1 July], instead of today and will meet with President Husni Mubarak. He added that 'Arafat will leave for Gaza Friday night or Saturday morning [2 July].

### Al-Bid Briefs Mubarak on Aden Situation

*NC2906185894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this evening from Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

During their conversation, al-Bid briefed President Mubarak on the latest developments and situation in Yemen, particularly in the Aden region.

## Mubarak's Envoy to Yemen Discusses Mission

*NC3006071794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Badr Hammam, assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs and President Mubarak's envoy to Yemen, in Sanaa, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on 30 June; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Ambassador Badr Hammam, good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Hammam] Good morning and thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Let us begin with the nature of your current mission in Sanna.

[Hammam] In this trip, I am, in fact, continuing the all-out efforts which Egypt started a long time ago to contain the Yemeni crisis by political means, especially since the recent developments of the fighting in Yemen have added a new dimension and growing risks to Yemen's people, interests, and achievements. My current trip, therefore, is nothing new, but the current situation amid which Egypt is continuing its effort is different from that which existed during my last visit on 1 May. This is the nature of my mission: To help end the current fighting in Yemen and reach a cease-fire that can be solidified by a mechanism to prevent the recurrence of fighting between the warring parties in this country, and to create an appropriate climate for a calm political dialogue among the Yemeni parties with a view to sparing Yemen further destruction.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Ambassador, what is the significance of the timing of the visit, which comes just before the UN Security Council is expected to issue a resolution today, Thursday?

[Hammam] The fact is that there is no link between a possible Security Council resolution and these Egyptian follow-up efforts to resolve the Yemeni crisis. They are two separate things. Our interest in the Yemeni crisis and our attempts to contain and resolve it began before the matter was put up to the Security Council, and they are separate from what a Security Council resolution may contain. This struggle in Yemen—which has gone beyond political boundaries and developed into a war that is destroying the country and people—is of concern to Egypt, whose responsibility and leading role dictate that it work to maintain a harmonious, balanced, and calm Arab framework in which relations become stable and capable of creating good circumstances for all the Arabs to move toward prosperity, development, and well-being. So, our efforts have nothing to do with the Security Council resolution that may be issued tomorrow or today.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Ambassador Hammam: Are you going to present new proposals to the officials in Sanaa?

[Hammam] His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has received me. We discussed the Yemeni crisis in all its details up to the point it has now reached, particularly from the military point of view. We exchanged views on the matter and I conveyed a message to him from President Husni Mubarak. I will meet again with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and with the Yemeni leaders with a view to intensifying this effort and providing a suitable atmosphere for its success, proceeding from well-defined bases, namely, the trust the Yemeni leaders and people have in Egypt's sincerity, good intentions, and concern for Yemen's interests.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Is there any relationship between your current visit to Sanaa and the advance of the northern troops toward Aden?

[Hammam] Ending the fighting in Yemen, whether in Aden or elsewhere, is an important and major demand, as I have explained. Every Yemeni killed, every Yemeni installation destroyed, and every tree burned are a waste for Yemen and the Arabs. Thus, the siege of Aden and the possible damage resulting from this are being taken into consideration, but neither the siege of Aden or the attempt to enter Aden are the top concern. Aden is only one part of Yemen, which we want to spare from the destruction that we could not spare other areas in Yemen. Of course, Aden is a big city with installations and infrastructure. There are enormous risks involved should ferocious and violent fighting break out in Aden, which would result in heavy casualties. So naturally we want to avoid this, but it is not about Aden in particular. It is part of a general framework that includes all the Yemeni territory and people.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] One last question, Ambassador Hammam. Judging from the visits you have made, the meetings held in Cairo involving the two parties to the conflict in Yemen, and the Arab and international efforts, will there be a breakthrough in the Yemeni crisis in the coming days?

[Hammam] I feel optimistic about what Egypt is doing in this regard as well as what other parties, particularly the UN secretary general's envoy, are doing. I trust that the Yemeni leadership is aware of the risks involved in further fighting and destruction. Any responsible leadership must realize its role and be eager to benefit from all the efforts to reach the objective—that is, peace, stability, and security for Yemen. I am optimistic, but I cannot see the future and be certain about it.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Ambassador Badr Hammam, Egyptian assistant foreign minister for Arab and Middle Eastern affairs and President Mubarak's envoy to Yemen: Thank you very much for being on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Hammam] Thank you.

## Musa Statement Urges End To Yemen Fighting

*NC2906142494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today stated that Egypt is exerting all possible efforts and doing all it can with respect to the current

situation in Yemen. He pointed out that Egypt is in constant contact with the United Nations to stop the fighting in Yemen.

He added that today's reports say that the shelling continues; therefore, Egypt once again is demanding that the fighting should stop.

The foreign minister clarified that the situation in Yemen is very bad. He affirmed that anything that leads to bloodshed cannot lead to constructive action.

The foreign minister noted that President Husni Mubarak's envoy to Sanaa is bearing a message to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. In addition, Egypt is holding contacts with all the Yemeni parties. Egypt is also following up on developments in the United Nations, the most recent being the report by the UN secretary general released yesterday, which contains some positive points, even though the issue depends on implementation.

### Commentary: 'Major' Powers Should End Yemen War

*NC2906151694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "Immediate Acceptance of a Cease-Fire Is the Only Way to Save Yemen"]

[Text] Despite persistent Arab efforts, particularly by Egypt, which sincerely sought to halt Yemeni bloodshed since the Yemeni crisis started and despite the fact that Ambassador Badr Hammam is carrying an important message from President Mubarak to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih warning of the continued deterioration in north and south Yemen, it would be wrong to imagine that a cease-fire is imminent.

Despite current consultations at the UN Security Council to issue a resolution tomorrow calling for an end to the hostilities, it is not certain that this will happen because the roots of the conflict lie deep inside the Yemeni demographic makeup.

Furthermore current events regrettably prove that the Yemeni leaders who escalate the fighting have strayed from the right path and abandoned the call of reason which would make them return to the negotiating table and solve the dispute in an Arab context.

We appreciate the Security Council's role in discussing the various aspects of the Yemeni issue. Our appreciation is based on the effective role that the Council and its resolutions played in handling the Gulf conflict although that conflict was between two sovereign UN members.

For this reason and in view of the continued deterioration in Yemen and the dangers involved, the Arab nations believe that the major powers should shoulder the responsibility of halting this war. It is a burden they cannot shirk especially as supplies of weapons, missiles, and other war equipment are being provided by countries able to manufacture weapons and deliver them to the battlegrounds in north and south Yemen.

Although continued fighting in Yemen is profitable to arms-exporting countries, the intensified fighting and its adverse effects on the Arab region's security and stability has negative repercussions whose impact is greater than the billions that the war merchants earn from the war among the sons of the same nation.

Although hopes of halting the fighting between northerners and southerners are currently dim, we are sure that a cease-fire will inevitably be observed because the two sides' ability to go on fighting depends on regional and international arms supplies. These supplies will certainly stop when the sparks of war come too close to the vital interests of those who stoke the fires or when the Yemeni people fully understand the repercussions of continuing this insane war that harms the northerners as much as the southerners.

When the Yemeni people realize these facts and appreciate the danger looming over them, their seething anger will turn against the Yemeni leaders who are persisting in their crime against the Yemeni nation that eats up its resources and restores it to the backwardness of the Middle Ages with its concomitant loss of Yemeni identity. If the current situation continues the entire Yemeni nation will become refugees scattered throughout the Arab region, looking for a home and peddling themselves as cheap laborers in a job market already crowded with millions of job seekers from various nationalities.

While reviewing these bitter, cruel, and painful facts, we urge the Yemeni people to act before it is too late, step out on the right path, and compel all their leaders to accept an immediate cease-fire regardless of the sacrifices involved. A cease-fire is an indispensable first step for the two warring parties so they could embark on a long route of negotiations to settle their disputes without recourse to armed force and without further destruction of the country's infrastructure in the north and south, estimated by the Yemenis themselves at already more than $8 billion, a considerable sum to a country like Yemen, which originally suffered from acute economic difficulties because of its meager resources and high expenditure, particularly on armament.

We emphasize that an immediate acceptance of a cease-fire, regardless of the sacrifices, is the only way to save Yemen.

## Sudan

### Government Denies Envoy's Alleged Asylum Bid

*EA2906191094 Khartoum SUNA in English 1620 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Khartoum, 29 June (SUNA)—The Sudanese Embassy in Stockholm has categorically denied allegations circulated by some international media that the Sudanese ambassador to Sweden had requested political asylum in Sweden.

A statement issued by the embassy dismissed the allegations as absolutely untrue and baseless, affirming that

the Sudanese ambassador to Sweden is practicing his duties normally at the embassy in Stockholm.

### General Elections Commission Members Named

*EA3006094794 Khartoum SUNA in English 1646 GMT 28 Jun 94*

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 28 Jun (SUNA)—President of the Republic Gen 'Umar al-Bashir Tuesday [28 June] issued a presidential decree naming ('Abd al-Mun'im al-Zayn al-Nahhas) as chairman of the General Elections' Commission (GEC). The presidential decree also named Adam Muhammad Badri as rapporteur and member of the commission. Maj Gen (Retired) al-Khayr 'Abd al-Jalil al-Musharraf, (Maurice Lawya), Hajwa (al-Juzuli), Retired Gen (Police) Abbas Madani, and Sida Ahmad al-Sayyid were named as members of the commission. [passage omitted].

### Al-Bashir Grants Amnesty to 377 Prisoners

*EA3006094394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] In accordance with the powers bestowed upon him, and according to Article 208 of the 1991 Criminal Proceedings Law, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has ratified the abrogation of the remaining penalties against 377 inmates in various prisons of the country to mark the fifth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution.

### Ummah Reports Arrests of al-Mahdi Supporters

*PM2806153094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Jun 94 pp1, 4*

[Unattributed report: "Ummah Party: More al-Mahdi Supporters Arrested"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, London, AL-HAYAH—Sources of the Sudanese opposition's Ummah Party in Khartoum have confirmed that the Sudanese security authorities arrested a group of leading supporters of Imam al-Mahdi in Aba Island and the city of al-Abyad.

The sources said that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the party and former prime minister, was moved with three other leaders to prisons out of the Sudanese capital, but a Sudanese security official has denied the arrest of other party members and has denied that al-Mahdi was moved to a prison outside the capital. He stressed that al-Mahdi "is in the buildings of the security organs' headquarters, is being well treated, and is being interrogated." He said that the interrogators "are treating him respectfully and responsibly." He said that the interrogation of al-Mahdi is still in its early stages.

Members of al-Mahdi's family say that they received a brief message yesterday from the Ummah Party leader confirming that he is being well treated and that the authorities gave him the clothes sent to him and that the interrogation is continuing. [passage omitted]

## Saudi Arabia

### 'Important' International Move on Yemen Expected

*PM2806152294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jun 94 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq: "Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Expect Important International Position on Yemen"]

[Excerpts] Washington—Saudi Ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz expects an important international position to crystallize soon vis-a-vis the ongoing war in Yemen. He said that "the Saudi move, as defined by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, is aimed at sparing Muslim blood in Yemen, which we wish nothing but good, stability, and prosperity." This came in an exclusive statement by Prince Bandar in Washington. [passage omitted]

About what the Security Council is going to do to tackle the situation, Prince Bandar expected discussions later yesterday and a possible voting process in the Security Council. He said: Regrettably, one of the two parties has not complied with the cease-fire resolutions. The world has been clear about who is and who is not complying. But to eliminate suspicions, there has to be someone who can act as a neutral party to tell us who is not complying."

Prince Bandar went on: "What is happening in Aden is a tragedy—a full-scale tragedy. We pray to God that reason and responsibility will prevail. We all have a responsibility when it comes to sparing Muslim blood." [passage omitted]

Prince Bandar added: "I believe that the final analysis is that an important international position will emerge within the coming 24 or 48 hours at the latest. We support anything that can spare Muslim blood in fraternal Yemen, which is known as al-Yaman al-sa'id [happy Yemen]. But regrettably, what is happening now is making it a miserable Yemen. Our main aim is for Yemen and the Yemeni people to become happy again."

He went on: "Without doubt nothing can be imposed on people by force if there is no wish to agree on it. An agreement achieved by force is in fact a disagreement, not an agreement. If it is possible to reach results, this should be through dialogue. I have never in my life heard of a dialogue conducted by the force of arms that has produced positive results."

He added: "So all steps are linked. The fighting should be halted first in order to initiate a logical dialogue and calm people down. The people of Mecca know its mountain trails better than others [Arabic proverb]. The Yemeni people are a noble people whose history goes back thousands of years, and this history has become even greater since the emergence of Islam. But we must spare the Yemeni people's blood."

Prince Bandar concluded his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by saying: "History does not, nor will it, have mercy on any leadership that perpetuates bloodletting. Regrettably all that is happening now does not inspire optimism. Nevertheless we pray to Almighty God to guide everyone to the right path."

### UK's Heseltine Arrives in Jeddah for Visit

*LD2806192994 Riyadh SPA in English 1915 GMT 28 Jun 94*

[Text] Jeddah, June 28, (SPA)—Michael Heseltine, the chairman of the British Trade Council and his accompanying delegation arrived in Jeddah from Riyadh as part of his current visit to the Kingdom.

Upon arrival to the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport, Heseltine was greeted by a number of senior officials of the Ministry of Commerce and the British Consul-General in Jeddah Mr Walker.

### Heseltine Confers With Ministers

*LD2806203594 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jun 94*

[Excerpts] Mr. Michael Heseltine, president of the Board of Trade, was received this afternoon in Jeddah by the minister of post, telephone, and telegraph, Dr. Alawi Darwish Kayyal.

The talks covered topics related to communications and telecommunications. [passage omitted]

The minister of commerce, Dr. Sulayman Sulaym, at his office this morning conferred with the British president of the Board of Trade. During the meeting issues of mutual interest and means of promoting the balanced trade relations between the two countries were discussed. [passage omitted]

Mr. Heseltine was also received by the minister of industry and electricity, Engineer 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil, at his office this morning.

During the meeting facets of cooperation between the Kingdom and Britain were discussed as well as means of reinforcing industrial cooperation through the establishment of more joint industrial ventures between the two countries. [passage omitted]

His Excellency the guest and his accompanying delegation took a tour in the permanent exhibition at the headquarters of the Ministry of Industry to acquaint themselves on samples of products that reflect the level reached by Saudi industry.

### Prince Meets With Heseltine

*LD2806193994 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jun 94*

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin 'Abd-al-Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and the inspector general, at his office in Jeddah this afternoon received His Excellency

the British secretary of trade and industry and president of the Board of Trade, and the delegation accompanying him.

The audience was attended by the British ambassador to the Kingdom, Mr. David Gore-Booth.

### Algerian Prime Minister Arrives, Meets Officials

*LD2906204794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Excerpts] After Rome, Jeddah was the second stop in Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi's tour. He arrived today on a two-day official visit.

The head of government was met by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister. Our correspondent Faouzia Dati reports from Jeddah:

[Dati] The head of government, Mokdad Sifi, arrived in Jeddah this morning accompanied by the ministers of foreign affairs, energy and industry, finance and equipment. Sifi was met by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Later, Mokdad Sifi had a meeting with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation.

The visit is within the framework of cooperation and consultation between the two countries in many spheres which concern the future of bilateral relations and others which concern the future of the Arab world in general. [passage omitted]

The visit will provide an opportunity for Algerian and Saudi officials to discuss the most effective means of cooperation and investment in all areas, particularly in the economic sphere.

Bilateral meetings were held this evening at the hospitality palace between Algerian ministers and their Saudi counterparts to discuss cooperation in specific areas. [passage omitted]

### Second Diplomat Said Seeking Political Asylum

*LD2906165194 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] London, June 29, IRNA—A second Saudi Arabian diplomat working in the United States is considering to apply for political asylum, according to a faxed statement from his lawyer in London.

Ahmad al-Zahrani was said to be seeking refuge in the British capital after defecting from his post as second secretary at the Saudi Consulate in Houston.

His solicitor, Amjad Salfiti, said the 34-year old diplomat did not want to confuse his case with the former first secretary to the United Nations, Mohammad al-Khilewi, who applied for asylum in the U.S. earlier this month.

He suggested that his client's application would present a challenge to the British authorities to show an "even hand when dealing with matters involving serious breaches of human rights in a friendly country such as Saudi Arabia."

In his statement, al-Zahrani said that he was joining his voice to the "increasing number of moderate academics" from Saudi Arabia, who no longer are able to tolerate the breaches of basic human rights by the present regime in Riyadh.

His personal experience was supported by documentary evidence to prove "beyond any doubt the hypocrisy and double standards which are adopted by the Saudi regime," he said.

Al-Zahrani is noted for as a research writer of a book about Saudi politics, which he says has been prevented from being published even though he had obtained all the necessary licences.

There was no immediate indication if the diplomat would be joining the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia (CDLR), which moved its office to London in April this year after having many of its members arrested inside the country.

The committee, which is becoming the main focal point for academics and intellectuals opposed to the Saudi Government, was approached by al-Khilewi, when he defected at the beginning of June and suggested other diplomats would follow.

### Daily Refutes Involvement, 'Intervention' in Yemen

*JN2906184994 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 28 Jun 94 p 9*

[Editorial: "The Kingdom and Yemen's Interests"]

[Text] The claims that the kingdom is taking a biased stand toward the Yemen war are both baseless and unjustifiable. For the Kingdom's Yemen policy, as attested to by the Yemeni people, has always sought to promote the lot of the Yemeni people, and to boost their abilities through the huge financial assistance granted to Yemen. This assistance was used to finance development projects that were instrumental in making the qualitative leap forward seen in the areas of education, health, road construction, and other vital sectors in Yemen. The Kingdom made undeniable contributions to this commendable cultural leap forward.

It is not peculiar for the Kingdom, given its huge economic prowess, to assist its brothers in Yemen. For, it has always been known for aiding Arabs and Muslims whenever it could. This is the reflection of a policy espoused since the unification of the Kingdom. This policy is still in force. The kingdom has not sought to take advantage of all the wealth and resources bestowed upon it by God to the exclusion of others. It has always extended a helping hand to fellow Arabs and Muslims in pursuit of this sound policy and its spirit, which is derived from the injunctions of the tolerant Islamic religion and its sublime heavenly ideals.

Given all this, it is strange to see the northerners claim that the kingdom's position on Yemeni developments harms the interests of the Yemeni people, and that the kingdom is involved in the ongoing conflict between

Sanaa and Aden when they are well aware that the Kingdom stressed the need to heed reason and halt the war between the two warring sides to protect Yemen's interests and end the bloodletting there even before the passage of the UN cease-fire resolution. The northerners are also aware that the Kingdom was one of the first countries to have blessed Yemeni unity when it was established by agreement between the two parts of Yemen four years ago. The Kingdom did so because it has always been interested in promoting the interests of Yemen and the prosperity of its people.

What is going on in fraternal Yemen nowadays can in no way promote the interests of the people in the two parts of Yemen. This is because war produces disastrous consequences. The continuation of the war in Yemen will produce devastation there. This will destroy the economic infrastructures built there, thanks to the contributions made by the Kingdom to promote the Yemenis' interests and bring about their prosperity. War could only produce further ruination, destruction, and devastation for both parts of Yemen. That is why the Kingdom hastened to support the UN cease-fire resolution. The kingdom wants an end to the heinous massacres to which the cities of southern Yemen are being exposed, because they have opposed a unity meant to be built on the dead bodies of the Yemeni people.

The Kingdom cannot take the blame for the mistakes Sanaa has made—mistakes that have exacerbated and complicated the political crisis in Yemen and caused it to flare up in a military confrontation with the south. The Kingdom's political constants cannot allow for intervention in Yemen's domestic affairs. Nonetheless, the Kingdom is interested in helping the Yemeni people overcome their current ordeal. Hence, its support for the UN cease-fire resolution. Additionally, the Kingdom is willing to help any Arab or Islamic efforts that could help to settle the ongoing conflict in a manner that would halt the bloodletting in Yemen and place Yemeni interests above all considerations.

Given all this, the Kingdom rejects the baseless allegations that it is involved in the ongoing conflict between north Yemen and south Yemen. At the same time, the Kingdom would like to reiterate that it is determined to work to safeguard the interests of the fraternal Yemeni people. It goes without saying that the Yemeni people's interests are not promoted when Sanaa violates the UN Security Council cease-fire resolution. Likewise, their interests are not served when Sanaa sticks to a unity that is opposed by the southerners. This is because unity cannot be built by the force of arms. Similarly, the interests of the Yemeni people are not served when this war continues to kill scores of innocent children, women, and elderly in Aden, and to destroy vital economic installations just to realize transient selfish interests.

## United Arab Emirates

### Minister Rejects Iranian 'Threats' on Islands

*LD2906090494 Riyadh SPA in English 1315 GMT 28 Jun 94*

[Text] London, June 28, SPA—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has reiterated its inalienable stand from the problem of the three islands occupied by Iran.

In a statement published by London-based AL-WASAT magazine, carried yesterday by the UAE's news agency, UAE's Minister of state for foreign affairs Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan said his country, along with the other GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states, would remain keen on establishing good relations with Iran.

But it will never accept the policy of threats and occupation, he said.

As the UAE will never give up even one span of its territories, then the problem of the three islands will constitute an obstacle before normalizing relations with Iran, he said.

If the Iranians have the historical documents which prove their ownership of the three islands, then they should present them before the international justice court, he said and added 'we will accept the verdict issued by the international court'.

Al Nuhayyan pointed out that refusal of Iran to arbitration would mean that it has no sovereignty on the three islands.

On the problem of Yemen, Al Nuhayyan said his country does not support any of the conflicting parties in Yemen.

He noted that the UAE had mediated to settle the Yemeni dispute before the break-out of the war between Sanaa and Aden.

We have shown our keenness on Yemeni unity, but we believe that this unity should not come by means of force, he said highlighting the assistance extended by the UAE to Yemen before the announcement of the unity.

Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the UAE, has made it clear to the Yemeni leaders that unity cannot be imposed by force, he said.

### Insistence on Sovereignty Over Islands Affirmed

*PM3006113294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Jun 94 p4*

[Report by Shafiq al-Asadi: "Abu-Dhabi Rejects the Logic of Occupation by the Zionists or Iran"]

[Excerpts] Abu-Dhabi—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has reaffirmed its insistence on full sovereignty over the islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu-Musa, and emphasized that it will not forfeit a single inch of their territory.

Diplomatic sources in Abu-Dhabi have stated that "this is a firm and irrevocable position regardless of the statements and threats of Iranian officials which are not based on any legal or historical ground relating to these islands which were forcibly occupied by Iran in 1971."

They added that "the statements of Iranian officials on the islands and Tehran's talk of eternal sovereignty over the three strategic Gulf islands reflect a conceited and arrogant Iranian mentality and Iranian policy toward the neighboring states, governed by upstaging and charges of

treason, hegemony, and service to Zionism which Tehran knowns well. [no closing quotemark as published]

The sources were commenting on the statement of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesman who said that the UAE's position "opens the way to Zionist hegemony."

The sources described the statement of Mahmud Mohammadi, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, and his reaffirmation of "Iran's eternal sovereignty over the three strategic islands in the Gulf," as a "violation of the spirit of the era and of the international will that disputes should be settled by peaceful means and recourse to the international community if negotiations between the two sides fail." [passage omitted]

The sources said that "Iran's continued occupation of the islands reflects a mentality of hegemony. The logic of occupation is rejected, be it in Palestine by the Zionists or in the Gulf by the Iranians." [passage omitted]

### Forces Seize Iranian Boat, Infiltrators

*PM2906151594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jun 94 p 4*

[Report by Shafiq al-Asadi: "Emirates Seize Boat Carrying Iranian Infiltrators"]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi—Border and coast guard forces in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have seized a boat carrying Iranian infiltrators who were trying to anchor off the UAE coast in the emirate of Umm al-Qaywayn, at a time when the UAE is taking decisive measures to foil infiltration operations and tackle the imbalance in the population structure.

A spokesman for the border guard forces confirmed that the boat was seized after border guard forces opened fire on it and after a chase in the Gulf in which Interior Ministry helicopters took part.

The spokesman said that none of the infiltrators was hurt, the boat has been handed over to border guard forces, and the infiltrators have been referred to the judiciary for legal proceedings to be taken against them.

The UAE is currently taking tough measures to foil infiltration incidents conducted by various types of boats which anchor off its coasts along the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. [passage omitted]

The UAE Interior Ministry said in a statement distributed yesterday that border and coast guard forces, supported by police helicopters, foiled an attempt to infiltrate into the UAE by a speedboat which was trying to anchor off the coast of Umm al-Qaywayn.

The statement said the boat was fired on but no one was hurt, and the boat was seized and all the people on board were arrested. [passage omitted]

## Yemen

### Paper Says al-Bid Sought Refuge in Saudi Arabia

*JN3006075794 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 30 Jun 94 pp 1, 18*

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Aden—[South Yemeni leader] 'Ali Salim al-Bid yesterday sought refuge in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after fleeing from al-Mukalla and abandoning Aden, which was fully paralyzed by the intensive shelling from all directions by the government forces. [passage omitted]

### Al-Jifri Denies Report al-Bid Fled To Arab Country

*LD2906215694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2055 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Aden, 29 June—Abd al-Rahman al-Jifri, vice-chairman of the Presidential Council in the self-declared Democratic Republic of Yemen, denied reports by some news agencies that President Salim al-Bid had escaped from al-Mukalla to a neighboring country.

In an exclusive statement to the Kuwaiti news agency, KUNA, al-Jifri said such allegations confirmed that the regime of Sanaa had failed politically. He said he had just had a phone conversation with President al-Bid who was still in Hadramawt.

Regarding the situation on the fronts, al-Jifri said the southern forces have repelled northern troops who had been trying to draw close to Aden this evening.

He added he had confirmed information that the southern troops stationed on the Lahj front destroyed three (Doshka) artillery sets, seized 16 other artillery sets, and took 80 northern soldiers prisoner.

KUNA's correspondent in Aden, confirmed that the northern shelling of Aden is still in progress and has reached areas close to the Aden hotel.

There has been no military communique on the extent of the damages caused by this shelling.

### Al-Iryani: Meeting With al-'Attas 'Not a Failure'

*PM2906151294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jun 94 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham, Randah Taqiyy-al-Din, Faysal Makram, and Iqbal 'Abdallah: "Al-'Attas and al-Iryani Met, 'Did Not Fail'"]

[Excerpt] New York, Paris, Sanaa, Aden—While the siege of Aden—whose residents are living without water and electricity in conditions described by citizens contacted by AL-HAYAH as worse than those they experienced during the 13 January 1986 incidents—has intensified, a meeting—the first of its kind at this level since the war broke out—was held in New York between a northern official and a southern official. The north was represented at the meeting, arranged by the UN secretary general's special envoy to Yemen Lakhdar Brahimi, by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, planning and development minister in the Republic of Yemen, while the south was

represented by Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister of the "Democratic Republic of Yemen."

Al-Iryani and al-'Attas stressed to AL-HAYAH the importance of the meeting. Al-'Attas said that the meeting with al-Iryani and Brahimi "will [as published] be limited to discussing the cease-fire question, the mechanism of observing the implementation of the cease-fire, disengaging the forces, and determining a venue and a date for the negotiations."

Al-'Attas described the meeting as "a start," saying it represents "a first step." He added: "But my conclusion is also that the brothers in Sanaa are procrastinating in order to waste time at the Security Council." Al-'Attas did not rule out another meeting with al-Iryani, saying that this depends on Brahimi's "efforts."

He stressed that the meeting "discussed the cease-fire issue and a monitoring mechanism to consolidate it." He also said: "We could not complete" the discussions because "Dr. al-Iryani says he is not authorized to discuss details" of the points concerning "setting a time for the cease-fire, the observers team, and the monitoring mechanism." Al-'Attas was eager not to describe the meeting as a failure, emphasizing that it is regarded as "a start."

Dr. al-Iryani said that the meeting with al-'Attas and Brahimi "was not a failure. However, I say that there is an attempt to exploit legitimate actions for illegitimate ends."

He denied that he said at the meeting that he is not authorized to discuss a cease-fire mechanism. He said: "Of course I am authorized to discuss the cease-fire mechanism, and this is what we discussed. We agreed on the general aspects but disagreed over some details." He went on: "As for the question of setting a new time for the cease-fire, I do not have the authority. It is to be decided by Sanaa and field commanders." He disclosed that Brahimi asked him during the meeting to set a new time for the cease-fire, but al-Iryani told him that he would inform Sanaa that a new time is required. However, he added, "it was I who requested monitoring to determine who is violating the cease-fire. I requested that the monitoring process be supervised by the French and U.S. military attaches, and Haydar (al-'Attas) proposed the inclusion of the Russian attache. I said I would convey this proposal to Sanaa."

Al-Iryani stressed that holding another meeting with al-'Attas "is left" to Brahimi. He said that he is, "of course, authorized to discuss the Security Council resolution." As for setting a new time for the cease-fire, it is up to Sanaa, "and what is required is to halt the war machine." [passage omitted]

### Further on Agreement Reached on Observers

*JN2906183294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Report by Hisham Milhim from Washington]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, the Yemeni minister of planning and development, has told Radio Monte Carlo that during his meeting at the United Nations with the Aden representative, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, both men agreed on a mechanism to deploy observers under the supervision of the UN envoy [Lakhdar Brahimi]. He added that discussion was still continuing regarding Arab and non-Arab states that might contribute to these observers.

The states that might participate in this effort include Morocco, Oman, Egypt, Jordan, India, Nigeria, and Senegal. [passage omitted]

Al-Iryani said that the UN secretary general will establish a special fund to which some member states will contribute to finance the observers whose number is not expected to exceed 150. Al-Iryani added that his government will try to reach a temporary emergency cease-fire for two days as a test of good intentions and to give the International Committee of the Red Cross an opportunity to bring a ship from Djibouti to Aden and to send a land convoy to evacuate the wounded and extend humanitarian and medical assistance. He also said that if the cease-fire continues, the U.S., Russian, and French military attaches in Sanaa will monitor the cease-fire before the international observers are deployed.

Al-Iryani said that after the cease-fire has been consolidated, Lakhdar Brahimi will ask the two sides to resume the political dialogue adding that the dialogue may be held either in Jeddah, Cairo, or in Paris, which is Brahimi's headquarters.

### Southern Leader Urges Recognition From Arab Brothers

*JN2906135694 Al-Shariqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic 23-29 Jun 94 pp 27, 28*

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, "head of the southern delegation to Cairo talks and member of the Yemeni Presidential Council," conducted in Cairo by Sumayyah Ahmad—date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ahmad] Now that Lakhdar Brahimi has concluded his tour, which aimed at resolving the Yemeni crisis, do you expect any new Security Council resolutions? Are you moving in this direction?

[Muhammad] We feel that Sanaa has wasted the time of the UN envoy and made Lakhdar Brahimi believe that it will accept a cease-fire and respond to his efforts. The UN envoy, who became certain that Sanaa continuously lies, will submit his report to the UN secretary general. We are waiting for the Security Council to take deterrent measures against those refusing to implement its resolutions. We are not only exerting efforts with our brothers in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, but also with all Arab brothers and countries in the world to make them recognize the old situation and the old entity. The four-year old unity failed to merge it [with northern

Yemen]. All merging efforts have failed. This requires new acknowledgement of the existing situation—North and South.

[Ahmad] There were Egyptian-Emirian and Saudi initiatives to contain the Yemeni crisis from the beginning. What is your assessment of these initiatives and of the statement issued by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] regarding the crisis?

[Muhammad] We welcomed all these mediations before and during the war and interacted with them out of our desire to save Yemen from the military option. However, Sanaa did not respond to these Egyptian and Gulf initiatives and efforts and refused to deal with them. Therefore, we expect our Arab brothers to support the victim of injustice. God willing, we will see this coming. Regarding the GCC statement, the brothers tried their best to stick to reason and dialogue. Sanaa, however, ignored all this.

We, on our part, ask the brothers in the Gulf states, and in the Arab states in general, to recognize us expeditiously regardless of the military situation, because we are the owners of rights and cause. We have a right to make our own decisions and refuse to see tanks, a tribal chieftain, or al-Zindani [member of the Yemeni Presidential Council] deciding our fate.

[Ahmad] Has the military situation, which is almost settled in favor of the North, affected Arab and international recognition of Yemen?

[Muhammad] Undoubtedly, this is true. Even if we move to Socotra Island we will never give up. We will continue resistance regardless of the military situation in any governorate. The situation on the ground is not very bad. Sanaa's attempts to end the war in three days failed and the war has been going for more than six weeks. We will continue resistance and make others admit the realities on the ground.

[Ahmad] How do you view the American stand, and the western stand in general, vis-a-vis the crisis?

[Muhammad] The U.S. stand is in harmony with its steps. Certainly, the coming days will reveal the exemplary end of this role, because we are certain that the Americans, Europeans, and the Arab brothers cannot allow a small Saddam to appear south of the Arabian Peninsula.

[Ahmad] What is your assessment of the Egyptian stand vis-a-vis the Yemeni crisis?

[Muhammad] Egypt is concerned about the situation in Yemen on the historical, geographical, political, security, and military levels. Therefore, it must have a role in the crisis. I believe there is an Egyptian role, but it takes into consideration certain internal and external factors. Egypt is dealing with the situation in a mature and wise way. However, we feel that the situation in Yemen is serious, and I do not believe that Egypt will accept a fundamentalist government in Yemen or want to see Bab el Mandeb and the Red Sea under the control of two fundamentalist states (Yemen and Sudan). I believe Egypt is aware of this. Hence, we depend on the Egyptian role and warn of the dangers of what is taking place in Yemen. This is despite the fact that we are victims of studying the situation thoroughly.

### Salih: Forces 'In Control' of 55 Percent of Aden

*JN3006053794 Sanaa Yemeni Repuolic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has emphasized that the Republic of Yemen will deal positively with any international proposal that is in interest of the Yemeni people and that serves the higher national interest.

He said: Our forces—the forces of legitimacy—have restored more than 70 percent of the areas that had been controlled by the secessionists. He said that the forces of legitimacy are now at the entrances of Hadramaut, and are in control of more than 55 percent of city of Aden.

The brother president emphasized our Yemeni people's rejection of those secessionists and agents who betrayed their people and sold the homeland's cause at a low price.

He called on some brotherly countries, which claim to be really eager to save Yemeni blood, to stop interfering in our internal affairs and not to support the rebels.

The brother president hailed the position of the fraternal State of Qatar—government and people—which advocates Yemeni unity, and the Qatari leadership's sympathy with, and support for legitimacy and Yemeni people.

He said this in a (television interview?) with the Qatari television team.

### Salih Receives Egyptian Envoy, Message

*JN2906182594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received today brother Badr Hammam, assistant to the foreign minister of fraternal Egypt, who conveyed a message to the brother president from his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message deals with developments in our country, as well as issues of interest to the brotherly relations between the two countries.

The message stresses Egypt's firm position and support for Yemeni unity, cease-fire efforts, and dialogue within the framework of unity as the best way to settle the current differences. It also asserts that Egypt is with unity, with the people, and with stability in the Republic of Yemen.

The Presidential Council chairman voiced his satisfaction with and great appreciation for the position of the brothers in Egypt, headed by His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He referred to the special Yemeni-Egyptian relations and the profound and strong ties between the two fraternal countries. He also said that

Egypt's support for the Yemeni people and their unity is part of its honorable pan-Arab role [words indistinct] in support of the eternal Yemeni revolution.

### Salih Issues Decree, Names New Governor for Aden

*JN2906202494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1954 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Sanaa, 29 Jun (INA)—President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today issued a decree naming Mr. Taha Ahmad Ghanim new governor for Aden. He replaces Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, one of the secessionist leaders.

It is to be recalled that, except for Crater, al-Mu'alla, and al-Tawahi, where the secessionists are entrenched, the Yemeni legitimate forces are now in control of all of Aden's suburbs.

### Nine Leaders Appeal for Cease-Fire, Urge Dialogue

*NC2906210594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA)—Nine Yemeni leaders called today for an immediate cease-fire in Yemen and a quick return to negotiations in order to allow all efforts to bear fruit, stop the shedding of the Yemeni people's blood, protect Yemen's unity and territorial integrity, and halt the bleeding of human resources.

In a faxed statement received by MENA's main office, the nine leaders called on the two sides to resort to reason so as to end the suffering of the Yemenis, to stop the destruction of the homeland's resources and capabilities, and to allow peace to prevail all over Yemen's territories and thus thwart all the attempts to deepen the tragedy.

The nine leaders are: Ahmad Muhammad Nu'man, Jarallah 'Umar, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Ruba'i, Sinan Abu- Lahm, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus [word indistinct], Mujahid [word indistinct], Muhammad 'Abd-al-Malik al-Mutawakkil, and Ahmad 'Ali al-Salami.

### Basindwah Meets With Kozyrev in Moscow

*JN3006083194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Text] Foreign Minister brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Moscow yesterday. The two sides reviewed the situation in the Yemeni arena, bilateral relations, and issues of mutual interest.

The Russian foreign minister reiterated Russia's firm stand in support of the Yemeni people's struggle for unity and progress. He said his country is ready to exert every effort for a cease-fire, to pursue dialogue, and to reunite the Yemeni people.

The brother foreign minister voiced our country's thanks and appreciation for the Russian stand supporting unity and democracy. He praised the close relations between the two friendly countries.

The meeting was attended by Russian Deputy Minister Kolokolov, [Viktor Usaluk] the personal envoy of the Russian president to the Middle East area, and brother 'Ali al-Bujayri, our country's ambassador to the Russian Federation.

### Northern Forces Reportedly Within Mile of Aden

*NC3006103294 Paris AFP in English 0954 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Report by Mahir Shmaytilli]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 30 (AFP)—Northern forces battled their way to within two kilometres (a mile) of the besieged city of Aden Thursday [30 June], as three civilians were killed and eight wounded queuing for water during the night.

Military officials said northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih were just outside the suburb of Dar Sa'd on Thursday morning after heavy fighting overnight.

Dar Sa'd is virtually deserted as residents have fled the suburb in recent days after it suffered sustained shelling and rocket fire.

Hospital officials said the three civilians were killed as they queued during the night at one of the city's wells in the western suburb of Mansurah.

Northern forces were also within five kilometers of Mansurah, according to southern officials loyal to Salih's former vice president and southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

But in Moscow the two sides were said to be close to signing a ceasefire later Thursday after talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, the ITAR-TASS agency reported.

The news came only hours after the UN Security Council adopted a second resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and the start of talks.

After the vote, UN officials said a southern Yemen representative pledged that Aden would observe a 48-hour ceasefire starting Thursday to allow the delivery of relief supplies.

Two explosions rocked the city early Thursday, causing casualties, officials at the Al-Jumhuriyah hospital said, without giving details.

More than 424 civilians have been killed and 1,170 wounded since the north began its assault on the city on June 11.

Northern warplanes and artillery pounded the port on Wednesday in a day of intense bombardments which killed 20 civilians and wounded 96.

Humanitarian workers have warned that Aden is on the edge of a "catastrophe" stripped of water and fuel supplies.

Northern troops have cut off the south's access to its oil refinery, destroyed the water pumping station and

intense battles have raged at Hiswah, 10 kilometres (six miles) from the city where Aden's main power station is based.

Southern forces have dug in on the edge of Aden erecting sand barriers and hollowing out trenches to repel the north's advance.

The Security Council also authorized Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to study ways to supervise a ceasefire at its meeting in UN headquarters in New York.

The resolution also denounced the civilian casualties and destruction resulting from the assault on Aden, in what was seen as a condemnation of northern Yemen.

But US Ambassador Madeleine Albright said after the vote that any ceasefire mechanism should be handled by neighboring states for financial and other reasons.

Kozyrev held a series of private and joint meetings Wednesday with Yemen Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah and Salim Salih Muhammad, a representative from the breakaway Democratic Republic of Yemen.

ITAR-TASS said some technical details still remained to be resolved but described the accord as an "important step" towards resolving the conflict on the Arabian peninsula.

For nearly 25 years, prior to the reunification of North and South Yemen in 1990, South Yemen was an ally of the former Soviet Union.

War broke out on May 5 and al-Bid declared a separate state two weeks later, shattering a fragile four-year union between the former Marxist South Yemen and conservative tribal North Yemen.

### Fighting Around Aden, Southern Dissension Described

*NC3006063694 Paris AFP in English 0118 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[By Mahir Chmaytilli]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 30 (AFP)—Southern Yemeni forces have been hampered by internal dissension and a lack of manpower as they struggle to thwart a northern advance along about 100 kilometres (60 miles) of frontline around the port city of Aden.

Three northern tanks slipped through into the undefended western suburb of Madinat al-Sha'b on Saturday [25 June], the office of the south's appointed vice-president 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri said.

Initially they met no resistance, giving northern forces enough time to consolidate their forces and cut off Aden from its oil refinery 18 kilometres (11 miles) to the west along the coast road.

Southern forces swiftly hurled their men towards the area in a bid to recapture the route to the refinery which supplies their troops with fuel.

But the north had the advantage of surprise and, turning the tables, launched another offensive to the north.

By Tuesday they had advanced as far as the city's pumping station about 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of the city.

Aden was thus effectively cut off from vital fuel and water supplies.

Southern officers collectively attribute the northern push to a lack of manpower among the soldiers loyal to southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

They point out that the south, which declared independence on May 21, has just three million people, compared with the north's population of 11 million.

In a bid to make up the numbers, a general call-up has been announced and buses tour the city collecting young men to take them to the front.

Since the war broke out on May 5 the south has been further handicapped by dissension among its own ranks.

A member of the southern presidential council, Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud, has accused soldiers loyal to the former president of South Yemen 'Ali Nasir Muhammad of backing the north in Abyan province east of Aden.

Muhammad, who came from Abyan, was toppled by al-Bid in a bloody power struggle in Aden in 1986, before the former conservative North Yemen merged with the Marxist South in May 1990.

Al-Jifri accused units loyal to the former president deployed in the north of "treason," saying they had lent their weight to al- Bid's rival, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, a northerner.

The units knew the layout of the terrain in the south.

The south's setbacks can also be explained by the loss of three of their best units. They were attacked and knocked out of action even before the war broke out.

The south had tried to withdraw the units, deployed in the northern areas of Dhamar, 'Amran and Yarim, but the move had been fiercely opposed by Salih.

Southern leaders are also trying to combat Moslem fundamentalists allied to Salih.

About 3,000 of them are said to be hiding out in and around Aden, according to informed sources.

Southern officers have already blamed them for the fall of several key points, including the town of Lahij, about 30 kilometres (18 miles) north of Aden, seized by the north three weeks ago.

Roadblocks crisscross Aden, barring the entrance to every district as searches go on for the Islamic militants.

Women militia are among 30,000 members of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) deployed in the city to stop any insurrection. The women's job is to search women wearing the Moslem veil.

Northern Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah has said the north's troops "are inside Aden itself," and Sanaa is counting on the population to rise up and seize the city.

### Sanaa Source Denies Shelling of Residential Areas

*JN3006074594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Text] An official source has denied that the forces of unity protecting constitutional legitimacy are shelling residential quarters in Aden. It is a sacred duty for these forces to protect citizens, guarantee their security, and preserve the country's stability. It is the gang of rebellion and secession who is carrying out such treacherous acts of hostility. They sold themselves, their consciences, and their minds to the devil, imagining that this would help them internationalize the Yemeni issue and promote it in foreign media and in public opinion. Therefore, they attribute these ugly criminal acts to the forces protecting and national achievements and the people, foremost of which are unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy.

The source said the gang, which is committing crimes against the people and the homeland, has won nothing internally but the rejection and hatred of all Yemeni people throughout the country. These criminal acts will never achieve their illegitimate and unpatriotic objectives. They will backfire on the perpetrators, bringing just and deterring punishment.

The source said that cease-fire initiatives and the political leadership's efforts to entrench them and the state's constitutional authority are based on an ability to confront all acts of hostility and to state practically that the opportunity for dialogue has never been closed, in light of the principled and declared bases. Many opportunities have been provided for many of those who have been misled to speak and to define their positions bravely and to be confident that they will find in the ranks of unity and constitutional legitimacy all safety, protection, appreciation, respect, and understanding of all the pressure and the means of repression exercised by the rebels to draw them by force into the tunnel of disgrace and destruction.

The source said the rebels are stepping up their hostile, hysterical action against the places in which the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy are located in the al-Huswah, al-Basatin, Shaykh 'Uthman, Madinat al-Sha'b, al-Mansurah, [?Amad al-Mindarah], [?'al-Kyus], Bi'r al-Nasirah, Bi'r Nasir, al-'Imad, and other places. They are fiercely shelling civilian and economic installations in Little Aden, believing they have no way to achieve their illegitimate objectives other than more destruction and the escalation of the death machine that engulfs them. The forces protecting unity and legitimacy are working to silence the rancorous military hotbeds that never responded to all the cease-fire initiatives.

The source emphasized that all Yemeni people are determined to stop the machine of destruction run by the rebels and to silence it forever so there will be no solutions except one based on understanding and dialogue, not on intransigence and the demented and rancorous use of the machine of destruction.

### 'Secessionist' Battleship Reportedly Destroyed

*JN2906203894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1956 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Sanaa, 29 Jun (INA)—A Yemeni pilot flying a Mig [not further identified] today carried out a heroic assignment. He hit a battleship of the secessionists in Wa'm Am'an [name as received] in the Arabian Sea. The battleship was destroyed and sunk, according to a military source [word indistinct] here tonight.

The pilot, who was martyred, had swooped on the ship that was bombarding Aden refinery and the legitimate forces in Little Aden, al-Haswah, and al-Sha'b.

The source emphasized that the secessionists are seeking [words indistinct] all the economic facilities in Aden, having realized their flight from the city is imminent.

### Southern TV Shows Wrecks of Downed Northern Planes

*NC2906204694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2033 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA)—Tonight south Yemeni television showed the wreck of northern Yemeni warplanes and the corpse of one of the pilots.

This came via a fax message that MENA received from Aden tonight.

The southern television station referred in its Arab and English newscasts to a communique by a southern military source, which said that five northern warplanes were downed this morning, including two helicopters, during a raid on some vital and economic installations, including the oil refineries in Aden.

## Tariq 'Aziz on Embargo, Contacts With Israel

*BR2906121094 Milan L'INDIPENDENTE in Italian 29 Jun 94 p 10*

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Maurizio Molinari in Rome; date not given: "Long Live the Pope: He Is Saddam's Friend"—first paragraph is L'INDIPENDENTE introduction]

[Text] Rome—Tariq 'Aziz never changes: He offers dialogue but does not shift an inch in his defense of Iraqi President Saddam. Baghdad's deputy prime minister, elegant and with excellent English, returned to Rome as the guest of the Vatican but also found time to meet with Communist Renewal's Pettinari and with the National Alliance's Maceratini, thus sending La Malfa into a rage: "That is a violation of the sanctions." Officially, Tariq 'Aziz came to seek support against the UN embargo. But in fact he is issuing messages designed to seduce the West: We are afraid of Korea's missiles to Iran, there is no bilateral dispute with Israel, the Kurds can choose to be independent.

[Molinari] What did you talk about in the Vatican?

['Aziz] About the embargo that is stifling us. The Vatican heeds our arguments. Our relations are good.

[Molinari] What do you think of the Vatican's decision to recognize Israel?

['Aziz] Well. We were not consulted beforehand. But one thing is clear: The prevalent Arab feeling is that this decision could have been delayed.

[Molinari] The pope will recognize the PLO too.

['Aziz] We expected that.

[Molinari] But if you had been in his shoes would you have shaken hands with Rabin?

['Aziz] 'Arafat and I are friends. But my name is Tariq 'Aziz. And I am an Iraqi.

[Molinari] Do you mean you would not have shaken that hand?

['Aziz] Iraq has no bilateral dispute with Israel. Our sole concern is the protection of the rights of the Arab peoples who are in contact with Israel—violated rights.

[Molinari] We are reading about secret contacts between Iraq and Israel.

['Aziz] There have not been any secret or official contacts, nor are there any now.

[Molinari] What do you think of Hamas?

['Aziz] Fundamentalism is a dangerous phenomenon throughout the region. It is the result of the Arab people's response to the affronts suffered from the United States.

[Molinari] How is Saddam?

['Aziz] He is well, in excellent form.

[Molinari] With what do you concern yourself?

['Aziz] Agriculture.

[Molinari] Why?

['Aziz] To cope with the embargo.

[Molinari] Do you ever think about Kuwait?

['Aziz] I feel nothing.

[Molinari] Was the war a mistake?

['Aziz] The war was an act of aggression against Iraq.

[Molinari] No, pardon me, I meant to ask whether the invasion of Kuwait was a mistake.

['Aziz] If there had not been the American war, we could have resolved everything among Arabs. We suffered a wrong. A remedy would have been found.

[Molinari] Is there at least one error that you regret—firing the Scud missiles at Tel Aviv or setting light to Kuwait's oil wells?

['Aziz] It is the others who committed the errors.

[Molinari] Which was the greatest?

['Aziz] Bush's war.

[Molinari] But for the Kuwaitis Bush is a hero...

['Aziz] There are not many Kuwaitis.

[Molinari] There are signs of a restoration of peace in your relations with Iran...

['Aziz] There is much exaggeration in what is said. Our relations are frozen.

[Molinari] Is it true that Korea is selling missiles to Tehran?

['Aziz] It is true.

[Molinari] And what do you have to say about it?

['Aziz] We are worried. Those missiles threaten us. We said so to North Ko rea a long time ago, when it started supplying weapons to Iran back in 1980.

[Molinari] But the Koreans did not heed you.

['Aziz] Precisely. The Iranians pay well.

[Molinari] Before meeting with the pope, you met with Andreotti. Who is the life senator, as far as you are concerned?

['Aziz] An old friend and colleague. I told him about Iraq today, and he told me about Italy.

[Molinari] You were well acquainted with the outgoing Italian political class.

['Aziz] Yes, it is true. We maintained excellent relations. Before the embargo our trade was worth a billion dollars a year. Without the sanctions, we would be willing to resume. We have confidence in your new government.

[Molinari] If you could sell oil, what price would you ask?

['Aziz] That set by OPEC.

[Molinari] Let us come to your problems. The Kurds enjoy de facto independence in the North.

['Aziz] The paradox is that the Kurds are terrorists in Turkey and freedom fighters in Iraq. Be that as it may,

Iraq has recognized their complete autonomy. The other countries where they live—Turkey, Iran, Syria—are a long way from that.

[Molinari] What about independence?

['Aziz] We are not against their free decisions. If they want a state, let them form one.

[Molinari] Even in northern Iraq?

['Aziz] We will respect their decisions.

[Molinari] In the South, however, you have the Shiites. They too are revolting.

['Aziz] It is merely a few Khomeyni-ist groups. The Shiites, like the Sunnis and Christians, have a strong Iraqi identity.

[Molinari] Do you not think that Arab nationalism is losing ground to Islamic fundamentalism?

['Aziz] Elsewhere, perhaps. Not in Iraq.

[Molinari] What do you think of the peace process?

['Aziz] It is very unclear.

[Molinari] Could you participate in it?

['Aziz] As long as the embargo remains, we will be excluded from the region and rendered unable to make any contribution.

[Molinari] Do you miss the USSR?

['Aziz] Yes, a great deal. Not Gorbachev's, which was at the mercy of the United States, but the previous one: It guaranteed stability and security. It is a pity that it no longer exists.

## Sanctions Limit Paper Supply, Threaten Schools

*JN2906115294 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Baghdad, June 29, INA—The U.S-designed economic sanctions imposed on Iraq have had a profoundly adverse impact to the progress of education in the country. This is still evident in the lack of book printing equipment, non-availability of stationery and shortage of educational facilities, the report [not further identified] confirmed.

Minister of Education, Hikmat al-Bazzaz, said the ministry, two years ago, had signed a contract for the import of paper at the value of U.S dollars 11 million for the printing of textbooks. The shipment, however, was sent back to the country of origin before reaching al-'Aqabah port. A large number of contracts negotiated and signed with foreign companies including the Canadian AABMA [expansion unknown] had not been executed due to the embargo on Iraq's assets abroad.

The drop-out rate in the Iraqi schools has reached 7 per cent. This is primarily due to the financial difficulties attending the continued imposition of sanctions. Data collected by the Ministry of Education put the figure for the academic year 1991-92 at 127,742 in the primary schools, 25,731 in the intermediate schools, 4,583 in the secondary schools and 2,722 in the vocational schools.

Several factors combined have contributed most significantly to the gravity of the situation. These may include the families' low standards of living, difficulty in transportation, higher rates of inflation, inability of schools to receive the continual rise in the number of students and above all the parents' encouragement of their sons to self-employment for additional income.

The wast majority of schools are now badly understaffed. Statistics for the academic year 1992-1993 showed a shortage of 12,152 teachers, of which 6,293 in the primary schools and 5,859 in the secondary schools. The situation has further aggravated by the fact that most schools suffer from the lack of a complete range of educational facilities such as laboratories, visual aids, text books, note books and even pencils.

A plan for the construction of new school buildings throughout the country has been largely curtailed. According to the six-year plan (1990-1996) some 3,973 schools were likely to be built. The number was drastically reduced to 150 then to 22. A similar plan for the restoration and maintenance of 8,613 schools has been effectively suspended due to the lack of money allocated to them.

An appeal to unfreeze U.S. dollars 10 million of Iraq's foreign assets for launching a national campaign for the printing, distributing and teaching of the holy Koran in the schools has not been recognized by the sanctions committee.

## Saddam Chairs Council of Minister's Meeting

*JN2806201894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jun 94*

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has chaired a Council of Ministers meeting. In its seventh meeting since his excellency assumed the premiership, the council resumed discussing and reviewing economic policies and the details of various economic methods.

At the outset of today's session, the president leader, may God preserve him, discussed the short-term and long-term social and economic benefits and results of the continued promotion of the countryside, districts, and subdistricts, which will settle people in these areas and upgrade their standard of living.

After discussions and review, the council came to the conclusion that due to the shortage of some imported construction materials, it is necessary to encourage the establishment of construction industries and to make local replacements for the imported construction materials. At the same time, there should be a trend to encourage and promote housing and building in the countryside, districts, and subdistricts. Thus, the council decided to stop granting building licenses within the limits of both Baghdad municipality and the municipalities in the centers of the governorates until further notice.

The council also discussed and approved a number of facilities regarding transportation in the capital, Baghdad, and among the governorates. It gave the minister of transport and communications the necessary powers to extend these facilities.

### 'Izzat Ibrahim Attends University Graduation

*JN2806084394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jun 94*

[Text] Under the patronage of mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, the Saddam University for Islamic Studies this evening celebrated the graduation of its second group of students, the batch of splendid victory and conquest. The republican anthem accompanied the arrival of the president's representative, Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim.

The ceremony began with a recitation from the Holy Koran to commemorate the souls of our righteous martyrs. Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of awqaf and religious affairs and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Saddam University for Islamic Studies, delivered a speech in which he said that this university, which was established by the order of mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him and grant him victory, has been the object of his excellency's care.

'Izzat Ibrahim, representative of mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, distributed the leader president's awards to the first three students who obtained the highest grades. Meanwhile, Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, distributed awards to the students who obtained the second grades; and Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih distributed awards to the students who obtained the third grade.

The graduation ceremony was attended by Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th party; a number of ministers; the Baghdad governor; Dr. 'Isam 'Abd-al-Hamid Fattah, secretary general of the Islamic Popular Conference Organization; heads of universities and academies; men of religion; and the families of the graduates.

### Decree Issued on Crimes of Desertion, Absenteeism

*JN3006111294 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 2*

[Text] The Revolution Command Council has issued a decree amending decree No. 61 issued on 17 January 1988 on the crimes of absenteeism, desertion, and defaulting from military service. Following is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate
The Republic of Iraq, the Revolution Command Council
No. of decree: 69
Date of decree: 9 Muharram 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 18 June 1994

**Decree**

Based on the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council has decreed the following:

Revolution Command Council decree No. 61 dated 17 January 1988 shall be amended as follows:

1. The crimes of absenteeism, desertion, and defaulting from military service, and the crime of working against the revolution are crimes against honor and the court shall so note in the verdict.

2. The logging in and publication of the crimes of desertion, absenteeism, and defaulting from military service in the records of the Defense Ministry or the records of the departments with which the perpetrators of these crimes are associated are for the purpose of reclaiming the medals and badges that were bestowed on them.

3. This decree shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the official gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council

### Saddam Receives Sons of Late Ba'th Leader

*JN2906192094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has received Iyad, Nizar, and Ziyad, sons of the late comrade Michel 'Aflaq [former secretary general of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party].

At the outset of the meeting, his excellency the president inquired about the state of affairs of the remaining family members of the late Arab thinker.

For their part, the sons of the late comrade expressed their thanks and appreciation for his excellency the leader president, may God protect him, for the noble and constant care accorded to the family of the founding leader, may God's mercy be upon him.

### Saddam Orders Bonus for Nursing Students

*JN2906112994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered a monthly lump sum payment to students of nursing schools, institutes, and colleges.

Health Minister Umid Midhat Mubarak told INA's correspondent the order of the leader president stipulates that female students of all the above categories shall receive 150 dinars and male students 90 dinars during their study.

He added that this generous bonus from leader President Saddam Husayn is meant to provide additional support to the nursing profession in our beloved country. It is also an incentive to our sons and daughters to pursue this noble, humanitarian profession to upgrade the level of nursing services we provide to the citizens.

The minister pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn to make every possible effort to promote this profession and upgrade its services in line with the great support it enjoys.

### Saddam Orders Awards for Rice Marketing Campaign

*JN2606133094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Jun 94*

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has ordered that the governorate and state employees who were in charge of the rice marketing campaign for the year 1993-1994 should be honored. His excellency ordered that Karbala' Governorate, which came first in the campaign, should be awarded 3.5 million dinars; that al-Najaf Governorate, which was second, should be awarded 2.5 million dinars; that Baghdad Governorate, which came in third, should be awarded 2 million dinars; and that Babil Governorate, which was fourth, should be awarded 1.5 million dinars.

His excellency also ordered that the governorates of Wasit and Diyala, which came in after these ranks and which have already started the campaign, should be awarded 1 million dinars each; that al-Muthanna Governorate should be awarded 500,000 dinars; that Salah-al-Din Governorate should be awarded 250,000 dinars; and that al-Anbar Governorate should be awarded 100,000 dinars.

The leader president also ordered that the governorates that are still at the beginning of the campaign but which have not failed to cope with the campaign, should also be given awards. He ordered that al-Qadisiyah Governorate should be awarded 250,000 dinars, that Dhi Qar Governorate should be awarded 150,000 dinars, and that Maysan Governorate should be awarded 100,000 dinars.

His excellency also ordered that the parties who took part and supported the campaign, namely, 350 employees of the state enterprise for grain trading who were in charge of marketing, should be awarded 1 million dinars; that 100 cadres working in the ministries of trade, agriculture, and interior who contributed to supervision, followup, and support effort, should be awarded 300,000 dinars; that the employees of al-Rafidayn and al-Rashid banks, who contributed to handing over the prices of the marketed crops, should be awarded 300,000 dinars; that the members of the higher committee for marketing should be awarded 20,000 dinars each; that the cadres of the general union of farmers' cooperative societies—the general center—and the local unions in the governorates should be awarded 1 million dinars; that the employees of the Central Bank of Iraq, who were in charge of distributing the amounts of money to banks' branches and the governorates, should be awarded 150,000 dinars; and that the employees of the central transportation committee of the Trade Ministry, who participated in transporting the crops from external centers to the silos and between governorates, should be awarded 150,000 dinars.

### KDP Official: Infighting May Resume in North

*LD2806213094 Tehran IRNA in English 2051 GMT 28 Jun 94*

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA—Nichervan Barzani a prominent member of the political bureau of Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) told IRNA here today that the disputes in northern Iraq are not solved yet and any moment the infighting may start again.

He said a congress consisting of different Kurdish parties, groups and political figures should have been formed after the end of infighting to settle down the disputes peacefully. He described the present situation in northern Iraq as similar to that of Lebanon during its civil war.

Barzani recalled that in the past three months quarrels in northern Iraq caused hundreds wounded among the military and non- military people including infants and women and said that this was an important factor to show the deplorable economic situation of northern Iraq.

He also referred to the recent establishment of Ankara-Baghdad trade-exchange and said that the restablishment of the economic ties between Turkey and Iraq will yield no possitive effect on the life of the Iraqi Kurdish people.

At present, the people in the northern Iraq are looking for the international assisstance and that assistance is not enough at all, Barzani said.

Barzani did not confirm the presence of the Israeli spying agents in northern Iraq, but said that they may present themselves there as information agents of a country. Some official sources and some parties in the northern Iraq had previously disclosed part of the spying activities by the Israeli information services.

One of the Israeli espionage base is set up in the northern Iraqi soil, near the city of Erbil and it is said that the Israeli undercover men are busy with training the forces of Jalal Talibani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

At the end of his interview Barzani severely condemned the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) bombing of the mausoleum of Imam Reza (a.s.) [peace be upon him] on June 20, which took lives of tens of men, women and children and wounded many others. He also called on the international fora to take a straightforward stance towards this issue.

### PUK, KPD Political Bureaus To Resume Activities

*NC2906180994 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] The political bureaus of the Talabani-led Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Barzani-led Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] held a joint meeting in Irbil on Tuesday [28 June] in light of the agreement reached during the recent meeting between brother Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani the day before yesterday.

During the meeting, which convened in an atmosphere of brotherhood and understanding, discussion focussed on pending issues, foremost being resuming the activities of the Kurdistan region's parliament and government, and normalizing the situation in all parts of the region. They also set a date for a meeting of the political leadership of the Kurdistan Front.

## Visiting French Delegation Meets With Officials

### Ramadan Receives Shakir, Delegation

*JN2906164794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jun (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has reiterated that the Iraqis, thanks to their patience and jihad, have managed to expose the false claims and slogans used by those who professed to be advocates of democracy and human rights.

During a meeting today with Ahmad Shakir, chairman of the society for developing Arab-French relations, and his delegation, Taha Yasin Ramadan added that the countries that became aware of their losses and of the harm done to their interests due to their submission to the U.S. administration have pronounced a new stand opposing the U.S. policy and stressing the need to lift the Iraq sanctions.

For his part, Shakir affirmed that the Iraqis' steadfastness and the reconstruction campaign they have implemented under the circumstances of the embargo confirm that they will have a bright and prosperous future. He noted that the world public has begun to discover day by day the falsehoods and deception promoted by the United States and its allies in order to launch their aggression against Iraq. He asserted that fighting the Iraqis through the continuation of the sanctions is an encroachment on human rights, and a violation of human values and principles.

### Assembly Speaker Meets Shakir

*JN2906142894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jun (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received Ahmad Shakir, chairman of the society for developing Arab-French relations, and his delegation.

The National Assembly speaker reviewed the negative impact of the continued unfair sanctions clamped on Iraq, and the acute food and medicine shortages they have produced.

Salih also stressed the need to enhance ties between the Iraqi and French peoples in the interest of the two countries.

For his part, the chairman of the society for developing Arab-French relations commended the firm Iraqi willpower in the face of the embargo imposed on the Iraqi children, women, and elderly. He affirmed that the embargo will soon be broken, and that Iraq will return to play its role on the pan-Arab and international scenes.

### Al-Sahhaf, Shakir Discuss Resuming Ties

*JN3006095194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has received a French delegation led by Ahmad Shakir, chairman of the society for developing Arab-French relations, and a number of French parliament members, including Senator Jean Jacques Robert.

Discussions dealt with the latest developments in the efforts aimed at resuming relations between Iraq and France in a manner that serves the interests of the two countries and peoples.

The foreign minister spoke about Iraq's political and strategical importance and its positive role in realizing stability and progress in the Arab area. He also spoke about the high potential for resuming and developing Iraqi-French relations and coordination between Iraq and France within the framework of the UN Security Council, with a view to lifting the unjust siege.

The head of the French delegation expressed his understanding of, and support for, Iraq's positions, and referred to the positive development in France favoring resumption of relations with Iraq.

He said the French people highly view the great achievements realized by the Iraqis within a short period of time in the reconstruction of what the evil aggressors destroyed.

French Senator Robert emphasized that the desire to resume relations is mutual, and the French people will not remain careless about the Iraqi people's suffering. He said he will convey what he saw about the results of the inhumane siege to French official and popular circles.

He stressed that the delegation will do all it can to lift the siege imposed on Iraq and to restore relations between the two countries to their past distinguished condition.

## Paper Denounces Saudi 'Murder' of Prisoners

*JN2706105294 Baghdad INA in English 0810 GMT 27 Jun 94*

[Text] Baghdad, June 27, INA—AL-QADISIYAH newspaper of Baghdad condemned the Saudi crime of keeping nine Iraqi detainees in the open under blazing sun till death.

Foreign news agencies reported that Saudi authorities liquidated nine Iraqi detainees by tying them naked to abandoned bodies of cars in the Sahara until they died.

The paper said that killing the nine Iraqis in the Saudi detention camps confirmed the false allegations of imperialists on their keenness of safeguarding human rights by maintaining silence over that crime in protection of hireling regime.

The Iraqi paper urged Islamic peoples to denounce the Saudi crimes committed and the mask of religion.

### Sudan's al-Turabi Praises 'Faith Campaign'

*JN2806133194 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 1*

[Text] Khartoum (INA)—Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic Arab Popular Conference, has condemned the unfair blockade on Iraq. In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Khartoum, Dr. al-Turabi referred to the current suffering of the Iraqi people due to the criminal and unjust blockade and the attempt to deprive them of their humanitarian and cultural role within the international community.

Dr. al-Turabi said the more the forces of tyranny and misguidance proceed with their siege on children, women, and old people in Iraq, the more the steadfast Iraqi people prove their Islamic faith, dignity, and firmness in the just cause for which they are struggling.

Dr. al-Turabi praised the faith campaign started by President Saddam Husayn by introducing memorization of the Holy Koran in all school stages in Iraq. He said this campaign has come to deepen the faith in the hearts of the Iraqi people according to the concepts of Islam and the teachings of the Holy Koran to make them more patient, powerful, and firm.

Dr. al-Turabi expressed his belief and confidence that a people like the Iraqis, who possess the power of faith in God and the power of science, will, and resolve, will not be defeated despite the aggressiveness of the forces of evil and tyranny.

### Technical Transportation Agreement Signed With Sudan

*JN2406162194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 24 Jun 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—Iraq and Sudan have signed a collaborative technical agreement in the transportation field.

The agreement was signed for Iraq by Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, minister of transport and communications, and for Sudan by the country's Minister of Transport 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif.

In a speech at the signing ceremony, Dr. Ahmad underlined Iraq's willingness to see bilateral cooperation further enhanced. Iraq was also willing to make Iraqi expertise available to Arab brothers, particularly the Sudanese. The Sudanese brothers can have access to His Ministry's facilities and can receive training in Iraq, he added.

The minister noted that the mujihidin have succeeded in reconstructing and putting this vital sector back on its feet, having been badly hit during the 30-state aggression on Iraq.

The Sudanese minister reiterated that both the leaders and people of his country support Iraq in its resolute stance against imperialist and Zionist anti-Arab plots. He applauded Iraq's unlimited support for Sudan, citing the transportation sector in particular.

The accord calls for collaboration in the the fields of ports, civil aviation, railroads, and land and sea transport, as well as an exchange of expertise and training courses.

### Sudanese Minister Departs After Visit

*JN2506092994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0826 GMT 25 Jun 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA)—Sudanese Transport Minister 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir and his delegation have left Baghdad, winding up a five-day visit to Iraq.

'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir said the results of his visit to Iraq were fruitful and positive, and that they reflected the great progress relations between the two sisterly countries have witnessed in the service of the Arab nation and its crucial issues.

### Turkish Party Delegation Concludes Visit

*JN3006084994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA)—Muhammad Gulcegun, Turkish Parliament member and deputy chairman of the Turkish Social Democratic Populist Party, and his delegation left Baghdad today at the end of a visit that lasted for several days.

During the visit, the delegation met with a number of party and state officials and dealt with ways of fostering cooperation between the two neighboring countries in the interest of their peoples.

### Iraq Protests Airspace 'Violations' to UN

*JN3006083694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Text] New York, 30 Jun (INA)—Iraq has protested to the United Nations the continued violations by U.S. aircraft of Iraqi airspace with the purpose of provocation and reconnaissance.

In a message addressed to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations said these aircraft carried out 272 sorties between 11-16 June. The aircraft flew over wide areas in northern and southern Iraq.

The message added that on 11 June, U.S. TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft violated Iraqi airspace and flew at an altitude of 20-kilometers over al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, southern al-Diwaniyah, al-Salman, and Artawi, and then left heading for Kuwait.

## Preparations Under Way for 'Arafat Gaza Visit

### Rabin on Need for Coordination

*TA2906125594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1226 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's reaction to the announcement of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's upcoming visit to Gaza came during an appearance before the Israel Manufacturers Association at the Carlton Hotel in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balsenboim reports from there:

[Balsenboim] Emerging from the annual assembly of the Israel Manufacturers Association, all journalists present mobbed him and asked him for his opinion and reaction to 'Arafat's upcoming visit to Gaza.

[Begin Rabin recording] Nabil Sha'th addressed a request on the issue to Major General Dani Rothschild. There will be no visit to Gaza without coordination with us. I am looking into the issue, and when a decision is made I will inform you about it. [end recording]

[Balsenboim] The prime minister was very curt and brief. We tried to get other details out of him, such as whether 'Arafat's visit could be prepared by Friday [1 July] and his reaction to the very visit, but he was not prepared to furnish any more details. As he said, it seems that the defense establishment is currently checking whether the visit is feasible.

### Officials, Parties React to Visit

*TA2906154694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin confirmed this afternoon that a request had been received from Nabil Sha'th for an 'Arafat visit to cross over at Rafah into the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted] Rabin's media adviser 'Oded Ben-'Ami says there is no mention of Jericho, nor of Jerusalem, in the request.

Cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid says it is true that the PLO chairman should have by the terms of the Gaza-Jericho accord notified Israel two weeks, not just two days in advance. But, Sarid says, Israel can reply positively to 'Arafat's request nonetheless, if security arrangements can be finalized. [passage omitted]

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu says the expected visit of Yasir 'Arafat is the height of national humiliation and represents the capitulation of the Government of Israel to the idea of a Palestinian state. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Netanyahu urged the prime minister to make it clear that 'Arafat would not be allowed to enter Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

The National Religious Party [NRP] has presented a motion of no confidence in the government over the 'Arafat visit. The party says the government should be taken to court for opening the gates of the land of Israel to 'Arafat, and it calls for the government's resignation.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 29 July adds that "this evening Tzomet submitted a motion of no confidence in the government over the announcement about 'Arafat's expected visit to Gaza. The motion will be discussed by the plenum on 4 July."]

### Rabin To Permit 3-Day Stay

*TA2906174794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Ya'aqov Eylon in the studio—live]

[Text] [Eylon] Is Israel prepared to approve an 'Arafat visit?

[Sarid] The prime minister and defense minister decided tonight to permit the visit to go ahead after taking into consideration all the security aspects. The visit will therefore almost certainly take place this coming Saturday [2 July]. It will be a three-day visit, as far as I know, which means he will be in the Gaza Strip Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. The question of whether he would come or not was not one of principle, because as you know, according to the agreements, he has the right to come....

[Eylon, interrupting] Yes, but the issue is the timing. Do you not feel somewhat humiliated that 'Arafat presented the government with a fait accompli, giving it slightly more than 48-hours advance notice for a visit that has been spoken about for so long?

[Sarid] I do not feel any humiliation. He can do this. We could have responded by saying that it either suits us or does not suit us. After the prime minister and defense minister took all the different aspects into consideration, the only issue at stake was whether we could prepare security-wise for the visit. After reaching the conclusion that we could make the security arrangements all the problems disappeared. We were asked whether we were surprised or not. What is the surprise? It was known that Yasir 'Arafat was coming. He has now said he wants to come in another two or three days. Since it can be done, we are only pleased to approve the visit.

[Eylon] As you said—and I will reiterate—the prime minister told you that he has decided to agree to the visit, do you find it preferable that it is taking place in Gaza and not in Jericho, which is so close to Jerusalem?

[Sarid] Is Gaza is closer to Jerusalem than Jericho?

[Eylon] No, what I said was that Jericho is closer to Jerusalem than Gaza, therefore is it easier to accept.

[Sarid] We handed over both Gaza and Jericho, so it does not matter. I do not want to go into that. I am also not sure I know what Yasir 'Arafat's reasons are, but I assume that the natural, almost obvious, consideration is that Jericho, with all due respect, is a small city. Gaza is much larger and has 1 million Palestinians, and I think that 'Arafat's reasoning was to arrive where he will be awaited by 1 million Palestinians.

### Settlers Seek To 'Capture' 'Arafat

*TA2906195394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Report by Nitzan Hen]

[Text] Settlement leaders have decided to set up a tent city opposite the Prime Minister's Office and start a series of protests, even on the Sabbath, if PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat comes to Gaza and Jericho. The visit will lead to the desecration of our country and of the holy Sabbath, the announcement by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip [CJSJSG] said. Nitzan Hen, our settlement affairs correspondent reports:

'Arafat's impulsive decision to visit hit the settlement leaders like a bolt of lightning, but they already have contingency plans, and at tonight's emergency meeting it was decided to focus the struggle on the possibility that the visitor might want to pray on Temple Mount. The council vowed that thousands of settlers would accompany 'Arafat throughout his visit from the moment his foot steps into the Rafah crossing. The aim is to capture the archterrorist live.

[Begin recording] [Uri Ari'el, CJSJSG secretary general] Under instructions from the attorney general, we removed the word dead [from the handbill he holds, calling for 'Arafat's capture for "murder and war crimes"]. We will be happy to bring him to trial alive and for him to have a fate similar to that of the Nazi Eichmann.

[Hen] Will a reward be given to the person who brings 'Arafat in to the CJSJSG?

[Ari'el] Whoever brings him in—not to me, to the authorities—will get 100,000 shekels.

[Nisan Smoliansky, CJSJSG operations officer] We call on each person to make every effort to capture him and have him tried under the law governing mass murderers, the punishment for which is death. [end recording]

Demonstrations along the roads and at junctions, the burning of a large effigy of 'Arafat, and a large demonstration on Saturday evening [2 July] are some of the actions being planned for the weekend by right-wing leaders. We will give the police and the guest hell, the council leaders promise. The restrictions imposed by the Sabbath will not hamper us, they say. The settlers' rabbis have permitted demonstrations on the Sabbath. National Religious Party Knesset Member Hanan Porat reminded Rabin that his first government fell because three F-15's landed on the Sabbath.

### Police, Army Prepare for Protests

*TA3006045694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Inside Israel, the Police are preparing for mass demonstrations by the right-wing in protest of the 'Arafat visit. Some 8,000 police have been assigned to an operation code-named Torrid Desert. Most of them will be deployed in the main cities; 4,000 of them in Jerusalem, where right-wing demonstrations are expected. Individual right-wing activists, who are regarded by the police as dangerous, will be placed under surveillance. The Council of Settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has appointed substitutes in case its members are placed in preventative detention by the police. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff General Ehud Baraq says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is ready to ensure law and order during the visit. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el he said that 'Arafat's arrival was expected sooner or later, and therefore he did regard it as an issue of principle.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 30 June adds: "Chief of Staff Baraq takes a positive view of the developments in Gaza and Jericho so far. He said we should now encourage the Palestinians to preserve the momentum and improve their performance in all spheres. Baraq says that in the autonomous areas and in Judaea and Samaria there are fewer attacks, but we cannot say that this situation is irreversible."]

### Post-Visit 'Frustrations' Foreseen

*TA3006085094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Jun 94 pp 1, 19*

[Commentary by Nahum Barne'a: "Let Him Go to Gaza"]

[Text] 'Arafat will enter our country from its armpit and back yard, from Gaza, which most Israelis were thrilled to be rid of and hand over to the first sucker ready to take it. Gaza is no longer with us, and good that it is not. Let him take it, embrace it, govern it. Let him go to Gaza. Everybody knows it is about time.

On the fringes of the right wing a few zealots refuse to come to terms with the fact that the war on Gaza is over. It seems they would rather have Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] than 'Arafat control Gaza. In the next few days they will block roads, burn effigies, and drag the entire Likud behind them. They will be wasting their energies on the wrong struggle.

They are too caught up in themselves to realize what this visit is all about and what it is not. It illustrates the humiliating aspect of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. 'Arafat will be entering Gaza not as a conqueror, but as an overnight visitor. He has no money. He has no army. He is like the anti-Zionist Satmar Rabbi who came from New York to visit his followers under the patronage of the Israeli authorities.

Nevertheless, he will be greeted in Gaza as a king, as the messiah. Those who have a hard time watching an ecstatic Arab crowd hoisting flags and raucously chanting nationalist slogans had better switch over to the World Cup games. For a moment there, Gazans will feel that a state has been declared. They will shout "jihad," and soon afterward 'Arafat will leave for Paris and leave Gaza with its frustrations. This post-frustration—this is the most worrisome aspect of the visit.

"He had better come for a short visit," a senior PLO member in Gaza says. "If he stays long, he will be expected to save Gaza from all its troubles. How can he...?"

'Arafat is not the sovereign of a state, not yet, but he is sovereign of his actions. He calls the shots. He lands the surprises. He managed to portray his beggar's trip to Gaza, a trip made possible through the good will of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], as a victory. The short notice was perceived yesterday, particularly by the opposition, as a dictate to the Israeli Government. A dictate? It stemmed merely from 'Arafat's obsession about his personal safety. All his notices are short.

Once again yesterday the world witnessed his rare talent to turn defeat into triumph, weakness to power, a lie into an outlandish reality. He is a formidable conqueror, as far as headlines go. Two months ago 'Arafat met President 'Ezer Weizman in South Africa. "Two Palestinians who planned to assassinate me were caught here," 'Arafat whispered in Weizman's ear. The president was deeply impressed, and so was the whole world. Weizman later ran into the director of the South African security services. "There was no such thing," the man said, "it is just a figment of his imagination."

## Rabin: No Opportunity Missed on POW's Release

*TA2706114094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 27 Jun 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today refused to elaborate on the government's efforts to secure the release of Ron Arad. Reacting to this morning's report in YEDI'OT AHARONOT about a German television documentary scheduled to be aired this evening which says that Ron Arad was being held captive in Lebanon or elsewhere, the prime minister said:

[Begin Rabin recording] I think no opportunity whatsoever has been missed. I will not comment on reports or on numerous other efforts and attempts to bring about the release and return home of Ron Arad, as well as that of all other POW's and MIA's. I think such a serious issue cannot be treated casually. If you scrutinize the history of exchanges of live and dead POW's since the end of the Lebanese war, you may find where the opportunities and the omissions occurred. Having said that, this in no way decreases the government's obligation to continue to do everything in its power, including the transfer of Mustafa al-Dirani to Israel, which definitely was a complicated operation. We will continue to do everything possible. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1130 GMT on 27 June reports that Rabin added that "he does not see a chance of the PLO helping with Ron Arad's case because its influence on the Iranians is even less than that of the State of Israel."]

## Iraqi Ba'th Party Delegation Arrives in Amman

*JN2906091294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Jun 94 pp 1, 28*

[Report by Musa al-Hawamidah]

[Text] At the invitation of the Islamic Action Front, the Pan-Arab Action Front, the al-Mustaqbal Party, the Jordanian Arab Socialist Party, the Democratic Arab Unionist Party (Wa'd), and the Jordanian Communist Party, a delegation of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Iraq arrived in Amman at noon yesterday.

The delegation includes Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi; 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur; Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the popular forces conference; and Walid Tahah Ibrahim.

The Jordanian parties have prepared a program for the Iraqi delegation. It begins this morning with a meeting of 11 secretaries general of Jordanian parties at the headquarters of al-Mustaqbal Party.

The delegation will visit the Jordan Valley, especially the al-Karamah battle site. It will continue its meetings with political, party, and trade unionist forces for one week.

AL-DUSTUR received the delegation and met with the delegation's head, 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, who said:

The visit is in response to a generous invitation from parties and political forces in fraternal Jordan. The nature of the invitation emphasizes the genuine pan-Arab position of fraternal Jordan, which continues to support the Iraq that faced the fiercest colonialist aggression in modern history and that has continued its civilized development, despite the unjust siege imposed on it.

He said the party's delegation will contact and hold talks with the brothers in Jordanian parties to energize pan-Arab activities before the next review [of sanctions] by the Security Council in mid-July. He noted positive change in the Security Council deliberations in the reviews that were made last March and May. He said a difference in positions between the United States and those of other permanent member states has been noted, in addition to the fact that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations. He said the Security Council should fulfill its obligations and implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

'Abd-al-Ghafur added: The efforts of the political and popular forces will enlighten the masses and influence decisionmakers in the Security Council's permanent member states and other countries.

On the siege imposed on Iraq, he said that although this unjust siege was designed to stop Iraq's civilized development, Iraq, under the leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, and thanks to the patience and creativity of the Iraqis, and the support of Arabs, made the great reconstruction that was carried out under the siege. This reconstruction is a model that emphasizes that he who has faith in almighty God and the justice of his cause will certainly win and will continue to develop.

The visit is the first of its kind prepared by Jordanian parties.

The delegation was received by Hamzah Mansur, House of Representatives member; Muhammad al-Zu'bi, secretary general of the Pan-Arab Front; Talal al-'Umari, from the Wa'd Party; Mustafa al- 'Isawi, from the al-Mustaqbal Party; a number of representatives of the Communist Party and the Popular Unity Party, and a number of journalists.

## Party Chiefs Confer With Iraqi Delegation

*JN2906151994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Amman, 29 Jun (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has relayed the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Jordanian parties and the fraternal Jordanian people. 'Abd-al-Ghafur also told the Jordanian parties that his excellency the president takes pride in the noble pan-Arab stand they took during the great showdown of the legendary Mother of Battles.

This came during a meeting between 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation on the one hand, and the secretaries general of 11 Jordanian parties in Amman today.

During this meeting, 'Abd-al-Ghafur reviewed the latest developments in the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council, as well as the efforts under way to lift the unfair sanctions clamped on Iraq. He indicated that the positive changes in the stands of most members of the UN Security Council are to be attributed to the steadfastness of the Iraqi people, and the wisdom of their leader Saddam Husayn.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur urged nationalist, pan-Arab, and Islamic forces in Jordan and the Arab homeland to step up their efforts and activities prior to the next periodic review session of the UN Security Council in July.

During the meeting, the Ba'th Party delegation made some practical proposals regarding multifaceted moves that could be made on the pan-Arab and international scenes to expedite the lifting of the unfair sanctions and mitigate the sufferings of the steadfast Iraqi people.

For their part, the secretaries general of the Jordanian parties reiterated their total support for Iraq. They also commended its steadfastness in the face of the unfair embargo, as well as its legendary confrontation of all forms of aggression, conspiracies, and foreign intervention in its domestic affairs.

The Jordanian parties also renewed their full support for Iraq's unity, independence, and sovereignty, particularly since the battle it is waging is meant to vindicate Arabism and Islam. The enemy in this battle is one;

namely, U.S. imperialism, and its ally, racist and expansionist Zionism, the Jordanian parties contended.

The conferees agreed to form a committee to draft practical proposals for future action on the Jordanian, Arab, and international scenes.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, director of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party; Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

### Minister Says No Political Prisoners in Country

*JN2306171794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 94*

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has emphasized that the security situation in Jordan is very good, and said there is not even one political prisoner.

In a news conference at the Interior Ministry today, the interior minister added that the allegations that prisons are full of detainees are baseless. Only those who committed criminal actions are in prison, and no prisoner is detained without a decision by the general prosecutor.

He said public liberties in Jordan are preserved in a democratic atmosphere that is unique in the region.

Hammad said that detention measures, including those who committed the crimes of explosions in public places, have been carried out in accordance with the law and within the framework of legal procedures. [passage omitted]

### 'Pragmatic' Approach to Israeli Tourism Urged

*JN2306074094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jun p 3*

[By Natasha Bukhari]

[Text] While Minister of Tourism Muhammad 'Adwan believes that having any kind of contact over tourism with Israel at this stage is "premature" businesspeople in the trade think otherwise.

"We have to deal with matters in an open-minded and pragmatic manner," says Muhammad Imam, general manager of International Tourist Travel Services, adding that in view of the tangible progress on the Jordanian-Israeli peace track, Jordanian travel and tourist agents have to start communicating with the Israelis to prepare for any future bilateral agreement on tourism in the region.

Mr. Imam adds that "we should not act like ostriches and hide away from reality." The reality, according to him, is that Jordan's tourism cannot survive without coordination with Israel, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and the Palestinians.

Dr. 'Adwan maintains that matters concerning tourism in the region will only be discussed in current peace negotiations.

While informed sources in the tourism business told the JORDAN TIMES that Jordan was represented in a tourism conference in Tel Aviv on June 13, Dr. 'Adwan said that he "had no knowledge of it, has not been consulted (on the issue), and therefore, (he) can deny it."

The Israeli daily newspaper, HA'ARETZ, said last week that five Jordanian businessmen were scheduled to attend the conference for which "Jewish businessmen were queueing."

The tourism business sources, who asked not to be named, said that there was no harm in participating in such "friendly and beneficial" conferences to hear the "other point of view."

Mr. Imam said that since "we sat with the Israelis in Madrid, Washington and will be doing so in Aqaba next month, it is no big deal to meet with them in the occupied territories for business pruposes."

He said he believed preparations should start by providing the "proper" infrastructure for tourism-related projects in Petra, the Kingdom's main attraction, and by establishing other bridges linking both the Palestinian self-rule areas and Israel to Jordan.

"We want tourists coming from the Holy Land to come and stay and not just use Jordan for an excursion," said Mr. Imam.

### Journalists Tour Israeli Armistice Line

*JN2306101594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Jun 94*

[Text] At the invitation of the Armed Forces, and in cooperation with the Information Ministry, a media team comprising representatives of the local media and newspapers yesterday started a two-day tour of the armistice line with Israel. The tour aims at briefing the media on the Israeli encroachments on Jordanian territory and waters in various areas along the armistice line, from al-Yarmuk River in the north to the Gulf of Aqaba in the south.

Our correspondent Jawad al-'Umari was part of the media team and will present us with the following report:

[Begin recording] [Al-'Umari] The media team set out yesterday from the Information Ministry to Ghawr al-Safi area, via al-Karak. In the Jordan Valley area, the team visited a Jordanian Armed Forces unit and was briefed by the head of the Operations Branch on the duties of the units and formations of the Southern Military Region, which extends from the southern part of the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba, and the projects executed by the Armed Forces in these areas, including schools, earth dams, and population surveys. The team was also briefed by the unit commander on the duties and tasks of his unit.

Throughout yesterday and last night, the media team visited a number of points opposite the occupied Jordanian lands and the waters that are being encroached upon in the Dead Sea and in water basins. They saw

from a distance the position of the Jordanian borders before the repeated Israeli attacks, which started in 1952.

The media team stopped at the southern part of the Dead Sea, Ghawr Sifa, and al-Salmani Police Post area, to the west of which the major Israeli encroachment on Jordanian territory starts and extends south, for various distances, to the Gulf of Aqaba. The team also stopped at 'Ayn Hasab area, where the Israeli encroachments reach their maximum, up to 8 km inside the Jordanian territory. Israel utilized that area for agriculture. It also utilized the ground water reservoir by drilling artesian wells to irrigate crops.

The team also saw the Wadi al-Ghuwayb area, a tributary to the Wadi al-'Arabah resources and the 'Ayn Daha area, where the Israeli encroachment reaches between 5 to 6 km. Waters and lands in the area were also utilized for agriculture by Israel.

The team also visited al-Rishah area, the point of water distribution, that is, the highest point in Wadi al-'Arabah. Waters flow from that point to the Dead Sea in the north and to the Red Sea in the south.

In the Gharandal area, the media team visited a Southern Military Region unit. The unit commander gave a briefing on the area's nature and the battles that occurred there throughout history, as well as the battles fought by the Jordanian Armed Forces in defense of Palestine and Jordanian territory. The team also saw the remnants of some of the battles fought by the Armed Forces and the airfield in the area which was used by the British mandate forces during World War I.

The media team then left for the Gulf of Aqaba via the Qa'at Tabah area, which was proposed by Israel as the venue for negotiations on border demarcation. The media team was briefed by the commander of al-'Aqabah Military Region on the border dispute in that area and Israeli encroachments on Jordanian lands and waters, as specified by the Mandate Document in 1928.

During the tour, Brigadier General Mansur Abu-Rashid, head of the joint Jordanian truce committee, gave a detailed explanation of the Israeli encroachments inside Jordanian territory. Brig. Gen. Abu-Rashid spoke to our radio at the Gulf of Aqaba area:

[Brig. Gen Abu-Rashid] The encroachments start in the area south of the Dead Sea, al-Safi, and Sifa areas. These encroachments extended to the southern area. In Gharandal area there were encroachments. Let me say that along the borders down to the Red Sea, there were encroachments. Sometimes these encroachments are deep, and, at others there are encroachments inside only a few hundreds of meters from the international borders defined by the British Mandate Document, which stipulates that the middle of Wadi al-'Arabah is the international borderline between Palestine and Jordan in the mandate era.

[Al-'Umari] Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, member of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, head of the Jordanian team to the waters working group in the multilateral conference, and member of the tripartite economic committee, accompanied the media team on this tour. Dr. Haddadin spoke to our radio on the negotiating situation of Jordanian territory within the context of the Jordanian-Israeli track and the projects planned to be executed to develop the Jordan Valley region after reaching a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace. Dr. Haddadin said:

[Haddadin] Jordanian territory occupied by Israel in the southern area is about 360 square km in area. In the fifth clause of the joint agenda, which we reached with Israel in September 1993, the two parties agreed that borders between Israel and Jordan should be delineated on the basis of the borders stipulated by the document of British mandate over Palestine and Trans-Jordan in the early 1920's. [end recording]

## Parliament Session Ends; al-Hariri Statement Cited

*NC2906145694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] At 1345 today, the general parliamentary discussion with the Government ended after a five-day session. It culminated in a statement delivered by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in which he responded to the remarks and questions of the deputies. The statement addressed numerous issues, including the audio and visual media law, the Year 2000 Plan for economic progress, and the return of the refugees.

Prime Minister al-Hariri began by confirming the state's adherence to its commitments to liberating the land, its right to resist, coordination with Syria to realize a just and comprehensive peace, as well as public policies regarding the audio and visual media law. The prime minister clarified that the draft law presented by the Government constitutes a legal and sound framework for dealing with the situation.

Though he affirmed that the Government is proud of the Chamber of Deputies' confidence, he clarified that it is concerned about this issue only within the limits of its constitutional responsibilities. Therefore, it is not about to look for a solution to a crisis that it does not feel exists.

## Further on al-Hariri's Statement

*NC2906171694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Excerpts] As expected, there was no vote of confidence on the second day of the Chamber of Deputies' general debate, which adjourned this afternoon. The parliamentary deliberations were expected to be the main issue discussed by the cabinet at its session scheduled for this afternoon but the parliamentary debate continued until 1400, which prompted President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, after consultations, to postpone the cabinet session until next week. [passage omitted]

At the conclusion of the debate, Prime Minister al-Hariri replied to the deputies' criticisms and questions. His reply dealt with the issues of the visual and audio media, the year 2000 plan, economic revival, the return of displaced persons, and the country's general policy.

In his statement, al-Hariri underlined the determination to liberate the territories, the right to resist, and the need for coordination with Syria. He stressed that the government is not looking for a way out of a crisis that it feels does not exist.

Fu'ad Sinyurah, minister of state for financial affairs, replied to the deputies' questions and their concerns about some financial issues, especially the issue of foreign debts, tariffs, customs, and the deficit.

On today's deliberations, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent Christian Usi has this report:

[Begin Usi recording] The 10th public debate of the government's policy ended after a long series of deliberations with a statement by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. At 1100 today, the session resumed. Minister Sinyurah addressed the deputies and al-Hariri spoke at 1300. He called for benefiting from the positive aspects and not stopping at the negative aspects that affect the political system.

Prime Minister al-Hariri said: I like to point out the following:

1. The government is still committed to its promises to the Chamber of Deputies, namely the liberation of the territories from Israeli occupation and the liberation of the state from the aftermath of war.

2. The resistance is not a slogan for local consumption but a fundamental choice for liberating the occupied territories.

3. The government underlines its strategic choice of coordinating with Syria and of continuing to work with it on all fronts, especially on the diplomatic front, so as to reach a just and comprehensive peace.

4. The government confirms its commitment to its declared policy on the issue of the visual and audio media.

The prime minister said that the year 2000 economic plan was distributed to the relevant ministers and is now being studied. He added that the plan will be submitted to the cabinet for approval and then will be referred to the Chamber of Deputies.

He also stressed that the government is implementing its projects with the agreement of the Chamber, noting that these projects are included in the economic plan. He added: The reconstruction process is long and complicated. Yet we are not satisfied with the speed and rhythm of the action.

In his speech, Minister Sinyurah spoke in detail about the government's economic, financial, and development policy. He said: It is this government's destiny to tackle the difficult files that have been shelved for years. He added: The stability we have reached has boosted confidence in the economic situation and attracted Arab and foreign capital. He also stressed that the government is continuing with the policy of gradual reduction in interest rates so as not to create any confusion in the money markets. [passage omitted] [end recording]

## Slovakia To Provide 250 'Advanced' Tanks

*JN3006080794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Jun 94 p 29*

["Exclusive" report by 'Ali Jamalu]

[Excerpt] A Western diplomatic source has said that Slovak Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan, who visited Damascus last week and met with senior Syrian officials, has signed an agreement with the Syrian side stipulating the sale of 250 tanks of an advanced type to Syria.

The source said Damascus is continuing to modernize the weaponary of its military institutions by both old and new relations with several non-Western nations, including Russia, the PRC, Korea, India, and now Slovakia, which inherited huge weapons factories from the mother country (Czechoslovakia).

The source said this policy is based on Damascus' view that "comprehensive peace," stipulated by the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle, is facing deliberate Israeli obstruction. [passage omitted]

## Paper Criticizes Shamgar Commission Findings

*JN3006070894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline of "Peace of the Massacres," AL-THAWRAH comments on the Israeli report on the massacre at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. It says: We did not expect that the Israeli judiciary, which is tailored to suit Israeli foreign propaganda, would condemn Rabin's government or hold it responsible for the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

The objectives of the Shamgar Commission's task are known. They are designed to clear the Israeli government and its army of responsibility for the blood of the victims of treacherous Israeli terrorism, to improve the Israeli image, and to eliminate the negative impact of the massacres on international public opinion.

The newspaper emphasizes the danger signal that should draw our attention, which is that the Israeli government—which the Shamgar Commission's report did not hold at all responsibile—has warned, in a statement by Yitzhaq Rabin himself, that there is no guarantee that another massacre can be prevented.

According to Rabin, terrorism and actions by mad people cannot be controlled by his security organizations. In a comment on the Commission's report, General Ehud Baraq, Israeli chief of staff, literally said he cannot guarantee that such incidents will not recur.

A thorough reading of Rabin and Baraq's statements, AL-THAWRAH says, makes it apparent that Rabin and Baraq expect more massacres in the future.

The newspaper says the report gives the green light to settlers to commit more massacres. The report intentionally covers the nature of the circumstances in which the crime was carried. These circumstances urge Rabin and Baraq to emphasize that other massacres are possible and claim that the occupation army will not stop these massacres.

## No True Peace Seen Without U.S. Pressure on Israel

*JN2906141294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Station commentary]

[Text] As soon as a possible date for a new tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region was announced, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin rushed to hint that this tour will fail just like previous tours in the region by the U.S. secretary of state. Israel seems to be deliberately seeking to keep the peace process at a standstill and uses its methods, which oppose the achievement of the just and comprehensive peace, to bring the peace process to a dead end and foil the U.S. and world efforts to boost this process.

Of course, these Israeli methods are not new. They are as old as the peace process itself. They date back to the time of the Madrid Conference more than two and a half years ago and to the time when Israel found itself in a political crisis, which it is trying to escape by placing obstacles and hurdles on the path of the peace process, by avoiding the dues of the just and comprehensive peace, by deviating from the Madrid formula, and by not abiding by the principle of returning land in exchange for peace.

The Israeli political crisis stems from the fact that the just and comprehensive peace imposes upon it full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and the other occupied Arab territories. Because Israel is not interested in withdrawal or in activating the peace process, it is trying to blame others for the failure to achieve positive progress. At the same time, it increases its allegations, falsehoods, and justifications to avoid the dues of the just and honorable peace. This can be clearly seen in the Israeli position that contradicts in form and substance the just and comprehensive peace, and by Israel's adherence to everything except the ingredients and principles of that peace. Accordingly, Israel sticks to the proposals of partial solutions and separate settlements. It also sticks to the slogan "Peace in Return for Peace" because it does not want to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and does not want to completely withdraw from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. It wants to see weak Arab parties on which it can impose its conditions and ideas and push them into further surrender and relinquishment of Arab rights, and who will accept its occupation, and the continuation of that occupation of Arab territories.

The Syrian position is totally different. That position responded favorably to the principles of the peace process and its true ingredients. That position also placed Israel in a real dilemma. Syria, which opened the road toward peace by accepting the U.S. initiative, adheres to

the principles of the just and comprehensive peace and the objectives of the peace process.

Syria, as everybody knows, has announced its clear commitment to implement the UN resolutions, on which the peace process and the U.S. initiative were based. Syria also responded favorably to all requirements of the just and comprehensive peace. On more than one occasion, Syria helped rescue the peace process from Israel's conspiracies and plans to torpedo and sabotage it.

Israel continues to place obstacles and hurdles on the path of the just, comprehensive, genuine peace. It publicly advocates replacing the Washington talks and the principles of the Madrid Conference with separate, secret talks. Moreover, Israel exercised an aggressive policy and did not stop the series of bombardment and its crimes, suppression, and terrorism in Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories. Israel is now taking strict measures to tighten its grip, entrench its occupation, and expand its suppression in the occupied Arab territories.

This Israeli arrogance would not have taken such a serious turn if the world community had assumed its responsibility and defended its principles, resolutions, and charters; and if the United States had adopted a decisive position against Israel's vandalism against its peace initiative. It is now clear that in the light of the Israeli practices and positions, which run counter to peace, that it is impossible to arrive at a just and comprehensive peace and stability and tranquility in the region without an effective U.S. and world intervention to pressure Israel. Consequently, commitments and obligations must be translated into a reality on the ground. As much as it is interested in achieving peace, Syria sticks to the return of the entire Golan Heights, South Lebanon, and the occupied Arab territories. Syria will not relinquish a grain of its national and pan-Arab soil. Every one knows that there can never be peace without Syria and without its positive and constructive role in making genuine peace.

### Peace Said 'Under the Shadow of Israeli Threats'

*JN2406062494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Jun 94*

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "The Peace Process Under The Shadow Of Israeli Threats," AL-BA'TH discusses Israeli officials' threatening statements. The paper says: It is clear that with their new threats, Israeli officials want to exert further pressure against Syria and push it to do what the others have done, that is, abandon its rights.

The paper stresses that Syria will never relinquish an inch of its occupied lands and that such threats will push it to stick even further to its rights, and, consequently, to work for the sake of a genuine peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH says: Thus, there is no doubt that Israel wants a peace which will enable it to achieve what it failed to achieve in all its aggressive wars against the Arabs. Consequently, it maneuvers, procrastinates, and delays the peace process. Whenever substantive issues are raised for serious discussion, Israel evades them and starts raising secondary issues that do not concern the basic principles on which the peace process is based.

The paper adds: Syria says complete and comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan Heights, South Lebanon, and the other occupied Arab territories will achieve the just and comprehensive peace. The implementation of this requirement is the cornerstone in the peace process.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: We in Syria went to the Madrid Conference out of a genuine and true desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. We still, and will continue to, work with everyone for the sake of achieving a peace that will guarantee security, stability, and genuine peace to the region.

### Israel Cannot 'Undermine' Quest for Peace

*JN2806151594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Jun 94*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In the wake of the aggressive Israeli attacks in the Lebanese skies and on the Lebanese territories and the occupied Palestinian lands, Yitzhaq Rabin has made threatening statements to undermine Syria's firm quest for a just and comprehensive peace. As a matter of fact, this Israeli pressure is nothing new. These statements are as old as the peace process launched by the Madrid conference. For, similar statements have continued to be made since the start of the Washington bilateral talks up to date. Their pressure has taken the form of evasion and maneuvering. However, they have now begun to take the form of threatening aggression since the conclusion of distorted and flawed agreements, such as the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The entire world community has seen Israel attempting to kill the peace process, and to preoccupy it with formalities and procedural matters in a bid to circumvent any discussion of substantive issues. This has been meant to evade the requirements of peace; namely, complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in compliance with the well-known UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

In the wake of this evasion and these maneuvers, Israel posed insincere questions about the kind of peace Syria is offering. It is to be recalled that the peace Syria is offering is crystal clear. It has to be just and comprehensive. This was well put by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad when he said that Syria is offering full peace in return for complete withdrawal. Since then, we have heard statements by Yitzhaq Rabin about withdrawal on the Golan, rather than from the Golan. Then, we heard provocative Israeli statements regarding an Israeli referendum on the future of the occupied Golan, as if the UN Security Council did not pass a resolution providing for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan in 1967; namely, Resolution 242, which was later augmented by Resolution 338. Israel has behaved as if withdrawal from the Arab territories is an issue that must remain hostage to

Israeli whims. As a matter of fact, this withdrawal is required in compliance with the aforementioned UN resolution to vindicate right and achieve peace in the interest of the region and the world at large.

It is necessary to note here that the international community's position, which has not thus far been firm enough, has encouraged Israel to hold the peace process in disregard. As for the Israeli evasion, it has produced flawed and partial solutions, which run counter to the just and comprehensive peace that is required. By contrast, the international community has seen Arab Syria augmenting its desire for just peace with a clear and strong position grounded in adherence to Arab rights, which are at the heart of just peace, taking care to safeguard the peace process. This has frustrated Israel's goal of thwarting the peace process.

The world community has praised this Syrian position, as demonstrated at the Geneva summit between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton. For the U.S. President declared that peace must be comprehensive, noting that Syria holds the key to peace, and that there can be no peace without Syria.

Throughout the peace talks, the world community has seen a Syrian Arab eagerness to safeguard the peace process. Likewise, it has also seen a firm Syrian Arab position, as manifested in the working paper Syria submitted to the Israeli negotiators at one of the rounds of Washington bilateral talks.

There is no denying that there are many things Israel can do. Nonetheless, there are two things Israel can do nothing about. First, Israel cannot undermine Syria's firm and noble quest for just and comprehensive peace, which must be grounded in complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Arab territories, for this quest is attested to by the world public. Second, Israel cannot weaken the firm Syrian Arab position, which is, indeed, the position of all Arabs. This is a fact that is widely known to all those engaged in peace efforts, headed by the cosponsors of the peace process.

## Afghanistan

### Opposition Rejects Extension of Rabbani's Term

*LD2906152494 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] As the war continues in Afghanistan, Afghanistan's Supreme Court has extended Borhanoddin Rabbani's term of office as president for a further six months. His term of office came to an end yesterday. However, Rabbani has announced his readiness to hand over power to a transitional government. At the same time, a spokesman for the anti-Rabbani [High] Coordinating Council, described the decision to extend his term of office for another six months as baseless and illegal. He stressed: The decision to transfer power to a provisional government, or any other government, can only be made by the Leadership Council. According to him, the leaders and representatives of the National Liberation Front, National [Islamic] Front, Islamic Revolution Movement, Islamic Movement, Hekmatyar's Islamic Party, National Islamic Movement and the [Shi'i] Islamic Unity Party in a meeting in Islamabad are considering the political future of Afghanistan. The Pakistani foreign minister, too, has called for Rabbani's and Hekmatyar's resignations from the posts of president and prime minister respectively.

On the other hand, although the level of fighting has subsided, the vicinity of Kabul remains the scene of clashes between Rabbani's forces and those opposing him. According to the latest reports, an opposition aircraft today bombed Balahisar and other positions of Rabbani's forces. The opposition have reported heavy damages inflicted on Rabbani's forces. This aircraft also targeted Jabalosaraj, Dasht-e Chamtela, Kheyrkhanah and Bagram around Kabul.

### Hekmatyar Spurns Idea of Coalition Government

*LD2906205594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Golboddin Hekmatyar, Afghan prime minister and head of the country's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], announced his disagreement with the establishment of a coalition government in Afghanistan.

According to a report by the Umm al-Qaywayn radio [as heard, UAE radio], Hekmatyar said on Wednesday [29 June], that if the Afghan president, Borhanoddin Rabbani, does not resign from his post, he will also not resign his post as Afghan prime minister.

### Battlefield Situation, Military Operations Updated

#### 'Fierce' Fighting in Kabul

*LD2906141294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Fierce fighting is reported to be raging in Kabul between the forces of President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar. Reports say Hekmatyar's forces have been trying to retake the positions they recently lost to Rabbani's forces in the southeastern part of the capital. The fighting closest to the city is said to be taking place over the strategic Tapa-ye Maranjan heights.

Professor Rabbani has unilaterally extended his term by six more months, a move that was rejected by major Afghan groups.

#### Balkh Province Operation Reported

*LD2906170094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] As a result of the successful operation of mojahedin and the Islamic Army forces, more than 100 militia were killed and 80 others were injured, and a large area of Balkh was cleaned of the dirt of the militia. Sources from the country's armed forces reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that the operation, which was conducted under the command of Ustad Ata Mohammad this morning in the province, Dasht-e Shadian and Khawaja Chinar and [word indistinct] were cleared of the Dostum-Golboddin militia. Today's operation of the mojahedin and the forces of the Islamic Army in the north has further weakened the moral of the defeated enemy and in many areas the militia flee without any resistance. In the course of the operation, mojahedin were able to capture as a booty two tanks, some heavy weapons, and a large quantity of light weapons. In two areas in Balkh Province, the militia are completely besieged by the mojahedin, and the operation of the soldiers of Islam will continue until the complete elimination of the militia. According to another report fighter planes of the country inflicted crushing air strikes on the positions and military bases of the militia in the cities of Mazar-e Sharif and Sheberghan. As a result, a large number of the militia were eliminated along with some military vehicles, and military installations of Mazar-e Sharif airport have been disabled.

#### Transport Plane Shot Down; 50 Killed

*LD2906202894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] A plane of the M-32 [as heard] type, belonging to the [Dostam] militia, has been shot down and 50 people on board have been killed. According to a BAKHTAR report a transport plane of the militia was shot down this morning by heavy weapons fire of the Islamic army of Afghanistan in the Mohammad Agha region of Logar province. Of the 70 persons on board, 50 were instantly killed and the rest were injured.

The plane, which was transporting fresh forces from Sheberghan to Logar to be sent to the front line, was due to pick up dead and injured militiamen on the way back.

It is reported that yesterday evening the Golboddin-Dostam militia launched an attack on positions of the Islamic army in the Karta-e Naw and Qala-e Ahmad Khan areas. They were forced to flee leaving behind several dead and wounded persons.

According to a source of the armed forces the mojahedin and the Islamic army did not have any plan of attack for today and have only been consolidating their conquered positions. It is reported from Logar province that militia losses were enormous yesterday. The report adds that the escape of Golboddin-Dostam militia from the Balahisar and Tapa-e Maranjan bases has caused deep differences among the militia's leaders. In losing its main bases the Dostam militia has suffered a great loss and now it are being disarmed in groups by the Golboddin militia; many are being killed. The latest BAKHTAR report says that Qalam, a famous commander of Golboddin militia who was seriously injured in the recent fighting, died today.

## Iran

### President Reportedly Threatens To Resign Over Reforms

*PM3006112694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jun 94 p 4*

[Unattributed report: "Amid Large-Scale Purge Campaign, Rafsanjani Threatens To Resign Unless His Economic Program Is Approved"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sources close to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said yesterday that he has threatened to tender his resignation if the Majles (parliament) continues to oppose the economic reforms program proposed by him.

Rafsanjani's current term—the last according to the Constitution—will end in June 1997. But the president's hopes of the proposed program achieving the desired results are diminishing by the day.

A businessman close to the Rafsanjani wing says that "the president seriously believes that his resignation could create a shock capable of breaking the current deadlock."

He adds: "Those opposing the president are living in a dream world and should be woken up."

Rafsanjani's threat to resign—which he, according to reports, has conveyed to Iranian Guide 'Ali Khamene'i—comes while officials loyal to him are being subjected to a large-scale purge campaign in numerous important government departments.

Over the past three months 211 middle-level employees have been dismissed from the Industry, Trade, Economy, and Finance Ministries and from the planning and budget authority and the Central Bank. Nearly all the people dismissed are known to have close links with Rafsanjani.

Their posts have been offered to younger officials, many of whom lack the required qualifications and most of whom are former members of the Basij-e Mostaz'afin—mobilization of the oppressed—a semimilitary organization which Khomeyni set up to fight his opponents.

The purge campaign, which seems to be supported by Khamene'i, includes all the diplomatic corps.

Mohammad Navvab, the mullah in charge of political guidance in the "Basij" organization, who is close to Khamene'i, has launched his most violent criticism ever against Rafsanjani's wing.

### Azerbaijan's Aliyev Previews Discussions

*NC2906184694 Baku TURAN in English 1658 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Baku, June 29 (TURAN)—"I am glad to visit Iran, I am here in neighbouring country among my brothers", said today Geydar Aliyev, Azerbaijani President in Tehran airport Mehrabad on arriving here at an official invitation.

According to Aliyev "the main purpose of the visit is to develop friendly relations between Azerbaijan and Iran". Aliyev noted that Azerbaijan and Iran are neighbouring countries and they are close connections. "These factors determines the relations between us", said president.

Aliyev expressed his hope that the meeting and negotiations with Rafsanjani and Iran Spiritual leader Ayatollah Khamene'i and other officials would be useful.

"We are concerned by the crisis on the Caucasus, so we can not remain indifferent", said Rafsanjani. Iranian President noted that these issues will be negotiated. "The subject of negotiations will also include the cooperation in the Caspian basin, development of transport, communication and transition and trade and economic spheres. Issues of mutual interest will be discussed", said Iranian president.

To the journalists' question what will be the role of Iran in the settlement of Armenian-Azeri conflict, Rafsanjani said that "Iran wishes speedy cessation of the conflict and establishment of peace in the region. We are aware of the problems and sufferings of Azeri people. During our meetings with Aliyev we are going to discuss the ways of reducing these problems and sufferings", noted Rafsanjani.

Today at 15:00 President Aliyev will visit mausoleum of Ayatollah Khomeyni in Tehran. Later, at 17:00 the Iranian-Azerbaijani negotiations on top level will take place.

### Aliyev, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Open Talks

*LD2906185894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] The presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan held their first round of talks this evening discussing ways of expanding bilateral, regional, and international cooperation. The discussions focused on increasing cooperation within the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, as well as boosting economic, technical, trade, and industrial ties.

Our country's president referred to the importance of the ports of Baku and Anzali as two trade poles for cooperation between the two countries and said: The building of the Khoda Afarin Dam over the Aras River, utilization of marine life in the Caspian Sea, exploration of oil

and gas in the same region, strengthening of shipping to boost trade ties between the two countries and regional states, and linking of the Iranian and Azeri railways in the Astara region are among the projects that contribute to such cooperation. He also stressed the transfer of Iranian electricity to Nakhichevan.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the war in the Karabakh region was a bitter and sad event in the Central Asian region. He stressed the principle that the established international borders cannot be changed, and that the Armenian forces should withdraw from the areas they occupy in Azerbaijan. He said: I hope that with good intention, avoidance from violence, and assistance from international forums, the plight of war and homelessness of the innocent people may come to an end.

He added: The problems confronted by Muslim countries, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, and other crisis areas, make it necessary that the world of Islam must make an effort to solve such issues by strengthening unity and cooperation among Muslim countries.

Mr. Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan, in his turn, welcomed the expansion of multifaceted ties between the two countries, and said: The deepening of cooperation between the two countries serves the interests of both nations, as well as the neighboring countries.

Mr. Aliyev then made some remarks about the latest developments in the Karabakh area, and expressed gratitude for the humanitarian help and support from the government and nation of Iran for the Azeri war refugees on the border areas. He said: I hope that with the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied areas in Azerbaijan, the return of refugees to their homes, and assistance from friendly countries—such as the Islamic Republic of Iran—and international forums, this war may came to a peaceful conclusion.

### Port Explosion Attributed to Short Circuit

*LD2906161894 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 29 Jun 94*

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA—At 16:00 hours local time Wednesday [29 June] (11:30 hours GMT) an explosion was heard at the Imam Khomeini port on the Persian Gulf.

No information is yet available on the cause of the explosion, extent of damage or casualty, if any.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1746 GMT on 29 June in a similar Tehran-datelined report adds: "The blast which occured at Imam Khomeini port at 16:00 hours local time (11:30 GMT) was due to electricity short circuit at a wheat silo, parts of which caught fire and smoke welled into the sky.

["According to reports at least 20,000 tons of wheat at the 60,000-ton capacity silo, are feared to have been destroyed.

["Details of casualties and damage to property are not yet known."]